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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League To Discuss East Europe Developments

JN0301161290 Baghdad INA in English 1500 GMT 3 Jan 90

[Text] Tunis, Jan 3, INA—The Arab League Council holds here on Tuesday [9 January] an emergency session at the level of permanent delegates to the League to discuss development of events in Eastern Europe.

An official source at the General Secretariat of the Arab League affirmed to INA's correspondent in Tunis today that the emergency meeting that will be convened in response to request by the State of Palestine will particularly discuss the purposeful news unleashed by Zionist information media about participation of some Arab citizens in Romania's latest events and to adopt necessary Arab resolutions in this concern.

He added that the Arab League Council will also discuss future of Arab relations with East European state in the light of the developments that they have recently seen.

GCC Official Calls for Cooperation With Iran

LD0301195690 Kuwait KUNA in English 1844 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Text] Paris, Jan 3 (KUNA)—The secretary general of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Abdallah Bishara, called for greater cooperation between the six-member GCC and neighboring Iran, saying that it was the best means of preserving stability in the Gulf region.

In an interview appearing in the latest edition of the Paris-based ARABIES monthly, Bishara indicated that improved GCC-Iran relations were "necessary" and have to be "based on mutual interests and in the framework of recognised international principles".

He said that "relations with Iran derive from a geographical, historical and cultural reality" and "adding to that are common interests, the most important of which is to ensure stability in the region."

He also described as "satisfying positive evolution" the fact that some GCC member countries have recently improved their relations with Iran.

Talking about EEC-GCC relations and the dispute on petrochemical products, he pointed out that ties between the EEC and the GCC were "deeply rooted" and not only limited to petrochemical products, and that both the EEC and the GCC were seeking, through negotiations, to widen their sphere of common interests.

He noted that a cooperation agreement had already been finalised in June 1988 and that the two parties were now trying to find means to implement the accord and exploring possibilities that could lead to a trade agreement.

He, however, indicated that "GCC member countries were expecting European nations to envisage relations between the two parties in a global point of view and in the long-term."

Questioned about cooperation between the GCC and the East European countries, after the dramatic changes that had occured there, Bishara said that the situation was not yet very clear in those nations and that it was "premature" to answer that question.

He, nevertheless, underlined that though there were no diplomatic ties between some Gulf countries and the eastern bloc countries, relations between them were "good and based on mutual respect."

Talking about Lebanon, the secretary general said that at the recent GCC summit in [word indistinct] "GCC member countries have expressed their firm support to the effort exerted by the Arab League's tripartite committee and have resolutely sided with the legal policy in Lebanon."

Noting that Saudi Arabia, a member of the GCC, has played a vital role in working out the al-Ta'if peace accord for Lebanon, Bishara said that there will be no solution to settle the Lebanese crisis unless legal authorities in that country are given full backing.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO-Israeli Mediator Hopes for 'Positive Results'

LD0501092290 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0100 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] Dr Ahmad al-Tayibi, the mediator in the indirect negotiations between the PLO and the Israeli Labor Party, expressed his hope that the contacts between the PLO and Israel will lead to positive results during the coming months.

He said that Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Shamir should acknowledge the firm reality that the PLO cannot be ignored in any peace process.

Faruq Qaddumi Discusses Syria, Lebanon Relations

JN3012170689 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 29 Dec 89 p 27

[Interview with PLO Political Department chief Faruq Qaddumi by Fathi al-Barqawi in Tunis—date not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Al-Barqawi] Egypt was said to have recently called for relocating the Arab League Headquarters to Cairo in keeping with the league's charter. Are Arab contacts underway to that end?

[Qaddumi] Not that I know of. In any case, this is up to the member states of the Arab League. I think it is premature to raise the issue now.

[Al-Barqawi] You are known to have spearheaded efforts to normalize relations with Syria. Sticking points,

though, keep cropping up. You met a few days ago with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' on the sidelines of the Euro-Arab conference in Paris. Has the meeting yielded any results?

[Qaddumi] Brother Faruq al-Shar' and I met during the most recent UN General Assembly session. We agreed then that a Palestinian delegation should pay a visit to Damascus, but the attempt has foundered.

I was also tasked by the PLO Executive Committee with pursuing my efforts to normalize relations with Syria. I am always at pains not to make any moves without first securing the Palestinian leadership's consensus. I intend to brief the Executive Committee on my meeting with al-Shar' to ascertain their views on the question of a delegation visiting Damascus and whether I will be a member of the team. I think the Palestinians are serious on the question of restoring ties with Syria, especially given that recent Lebanese developments have removed the stumbling block to normalization.

[Al-Barqawi] Is Lebanon the one stumbling block?

[Qaddumi] No, there are other obstacles, like Palestinian-Egyptian relations. Now relations between Syria and Egypt are as good as can be.

[Al-Barqawi] And what about the thousands of Palestinian detainees in Syrian prisons?

[Qaddumi] This is indeed a hurdle that may be surmounted shortly after a dialogue with the Syrian brothers gets underway.

[Al-Barqawi] And the question of independent Palestinian decisionmaking?

[Qaddumi] The battle of independent Palestinian decisionmaking has long been settled. The PLO now has the initiative insofar as Palestinian action is concerned. Not that the Arab states have nothing to do with the Palestine cause. It is a pan-Arab issue—a fact underscored by Arab summits. We need to engage in further consultations and joint action with the Arab countries, and more particularly with the frontline states of Syria, Jordan, Egypt, and Lebanon.

[Al-Barqawi] The Palestinian presence in Lebanon did not figure in the al-Ta'if agreement. The Syrian presence in Lebanon was regulated by the agreement. What is the PLO's position on this matter?

[Qaddumi] This will be one of the subjects we will discuss with our Syrian and Lebanese brothers.

Reaction to Al-Fahum Initiative; Syrians Informed

JN0401190090 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Jan 90

[Text] Much reaction has been reported to yesterday's proposal by Khalid al-Fahum [former Palestine National Council speaker and Palestine National Salvation Front chairman] on the reunification of all Palestinian factions. Sami Qandil, official in charge of the al-Sa'iqah Organization political department, said that the proposal is currently under study and that it is necessary to adapt to the latest international developments.

Al-Fahum stated that the Fatah Provisional Command under Abu-Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] has promised to give its reply but has not rejected the proposal. He asserted that he had informed Syrian officials of his proposal. He said after meeting with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' that they had also discussed the Palestinian and Arab arenas. The meeting was attended by Talal Naji, assistant secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, and 'Abd-al-Muhsin Abu-Mayzar, who represents the independents.

Summing up, al-Fahum said his contacts were positive. He did not explain whether there were conditions involved concerning his proposal.

PLO's Al-Surani on Shamir's Aim in Weizman Issue

NC0201162590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1435 GMT 2 Jan 90

[Text] Cairo, 2 Jan (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee Member Jamal al-Surani has said that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's aim in raising the issue of Israeli Science Minister 'Ezer Weizman's contacts with PLO officials at this time is to derail the tripartite meeting scheduled to be held by the foreign ministers of Egypt and Israel and the U.S. secretary of state.

In a statement to MENA, al-Surani said that Shamir wants to abort any arrangements for holding a meeting or a dialogue between the Palestinians and the Israelis. He added that Shamir is fully aware of Weizman's public stand, which is that Israel has to talk to the PLO and that there can be no peace without the PLO and the right to self-determination.

Al-Surani went on to say that, by trying to dismiss Weizman, Shamir is sending a threatening message to the trend in Israeli opinion that believes in the need for a dialogue with the PLO. He added that this trend is increasing and that evidence of this is the demonstration that took place in Jerusalem last week, in which Israelis, Palestinians, and international figures took part.

Egypt

Editorials on Shamir's 'Blackmail,' U.S. Role

NC0501085090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0645 GMT 5 Jan 90

[Text] Cairo, 5 Jan (MENA)—AL-AHRAM and AL-JUMHURIYAH papers affirm in their Friday editions that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is completely mistaken if he believes that he can resist the winds of peace and security that are blowing across the entire world, calling for respecting human rights and enabling all peoples to enjoy their freedom and independence.

Under the title "Shamir's Blackmail and Washington's Responsibility," AL-AHRAM refers to the unnecessary showdown with Israeli Science Minister 'Ezer Weizman. The paper notes that this conduct on the part of Shamir undoubtedly raises concern, particularly with respect to the repercussions that such a hard-line attitude could have on U.S. endeavors. The paper believes that the future of the peace process in the region will depend on how much Washington is willing to accept Shamir's blackmail, noting that the coming days will prove how serious the U.S. Administration is in its quest to establish peace. This can be proved only by totally ignoring Shamir's behavior and forging ahead with the peace plan proposed by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

Under the title "Freedom and Shamir," AL-JUMHURIYAH criticizes the U.S. Administration's position regarding Shamir's terrorist policy against the Palestinians. The paper emphasizes that only the United States, which proclaims itself the champion of human rights and which judges the other countries by the extent of their respect to these rights, is capable of deterring Shamir and forcing him to commit himself to human rights.

The paper points out that the policy of terrorism always fails in the end because the peoples who are struggling for their rights, such as the Palestinians, can easily tell their friends from their enemies. The paper concludes by saying that the day will come when the Palestinian people will gain their freedom and independence and settle their accounts by themselves.

Shamir's Attempts To Evade Peace Process Assailed

NC0301170790 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 3 Jan 90

[Ibrahim Wahbi commentary: "Aims of the Cabinet Crisis in Israel"]

[Text] The Israeli Cabinet crisis in Israel might be over but it has undoubtedly had deeply significant results. These are related to Israel's intentions regarding the peace efforts. The crisis has revealed whether Israel has any desire at all to end its occupation of Arab territories through peaceful political solutions.

The crisis, which was characterized by emotion and posturing, began with the Israeli prime minister's announcement, which was meant as a message to Washington. His excuse was that his government was forced to dismiss Science Minister 'Ezer Weizman because of the latter's contacts held behind the government's back with what Shamir described as Israel's archenemy; that is, the PLO. Two days after mediation efforts had begun, Shamir met with Weizman and they shook hands as a sign of a return to their accord. Weizman remains a minister in the government but will not be part of the so-called Inner Cabinet.

The crisis might be over, but the fact that it was caused at this particular time, that is, when the U.S. secretary of state has called on the Egyptian and Israeli foreign ministers to meet with him in Washington this month to discuss the holding of Israeli-Palestinian talks, means that it is was not a mere transient crisis in Shamir's government, but has to do with the basis of the peace strategy. It clarified Israel's intentions on resolving the Palestinian issue. By fabricating a cabinet crisis because one minister was in touch with the PLO, Shamir is sending a message to Washington. The message is this: Shamir will not accept any proposal to talk with the PLO. Thus Shamir is subjecting the peace talks to the danger of being halted by the obstacles he is raising even before the Washington start.

An American official has expressed U.S. concern over the Israeli Cabinet crisis, stressing that Shamir's decision threatens to bring about the collapse of the coalition government and that such a collapse would endanger the ongoing peace process. We would like to cite a passage from the West German press. It says: A person's refusal to be loyal to the Israeli Government does not necessarily mean betrayal of the state, the nation, or the people. 'Ezer Weizman, like many others, gets angry when he collides with the procrastination methods practiced by the Likud bloc in the coalition government which fell prey to ideology when the Labor Party, to which Weizman belongs, agreed to this coalition. Labor Party politicians, such as Weizman, are not the only ones who are suspicious that Shamir is trying to evade Washington's demand for a foreign ministers meeting and for talks with the Palestinian leaders in Cairo by fabricating a cabinet crisis. The West German newspaper FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU has observed that in dismissing Weizman, Shamir has reached a level of inflexibility he has never ever reached before.

We believe the creation of a cabinet crisis to try to evade the peace process is not without precedent. We remember that as soon as Washington announced Israel and the Palestinians had accepted the U.S. proposals, Shamir came out with a destructive statement in which he said Jordan is the Palestinians' homeland. It is clear Israel is not content with the attempts to sabotage the peace bridges and eliminate the methods, such as the proposed tripartite meeting in Washington, but is also setting up in their place hostile axes targeted against the Arab world, such as the Tel Aviv-Pretoria axis and the Tel Aviv-Tehran axis. We also believe Shamir has not

yet found a way to get rid of the peace siege that is encircling him from all sides.

Foreign Minister Interviewed on Mideast Peace

PM0301121490 Paris LE QUOTIDIEN DE PARIS in French 21 Dec 89 p 19

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid by Dominique Lagarde—date, place not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] LE QUOTIDIEN: Europe now seems not to be involved in the diplomatic efforts aimed at starting a settlement process in the Near East. Is this distancing inevitable or do you think that Europe can play a role?

'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid: Egypt's aim is not to exclude Europe. Europe has an important role to play in solving the Middle East problem and its stances on this problem strike us as very encouraging. The European and Middle Eastern countries have the same interest in seeing peace and stability restored to this region.

LE QUOTIDIEN: But there is less and less talk of an international conference. However, this conference, through the five permanent Security Council members, brought Europe—and France—into the process....

'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid: We think this is a process in several phases. We certainly do not rule out an international conference. Moreover, even the Americans do not rule it out at the appropriate time. But we must first pass through certain stages, and we have just passed through one. Our approach is to say that when the time comes, the UN Security Council and the five permanent members must intervene to provide guarantees for the peace process. Only they are capable of giving those guarantees.

LE QUOTIDIEN: An initial step was taken when the Palestinians and Israelis accepted the Baker plan in principle. But both accompanied their acceptance by reservations which seem totally irreconcilable. How do you hope to reconcile the viewpoints?

'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid: We are acutely aware of the problems, but I think that we have already made some progress. When dealing with the Middle East problem, it is important not to rush things. We must take action gradually, trying to overcome the obstacles along the path. There is some impetus for peace. It stems from several factors: the intifadah, the development of international public opinion, and the presence of peace forces in Israeli itself.

It is true that the various sides have very different viewpoints, but we must persevere and we are assisted in that by the goodwill which the United States is showing. I am cautiously optimistic.

The Palestinian leaders have shown a great deal of courage. The decisions made by the Palestine National Council in Algiers in 1988 were a decisive turning point. It is now up to Israel to make positive gestures. Egypt's position has been to accept the principle of elections proposed by the Israeli Government and to encourage the Palestinians to accept it, while asking the Israelis—this was the purpose of President Mubarak's "10-points"—to clarify their proposal. Is Mr Shamir serious when he talks of elections, or is he simply playing for time?

LE QUOTIDIEN: Israel is opposed to the PLO's demand to appoint the members of the Palestinian delegation. Do you think that the Palestinian organization can agree to simply give its approval to the composition of a delegation, the latter being first discussed by the various sides?

'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid: This point is currently under discussion. However, when there are negotiations, the negotiators must be appointed by those who really have the power to conduct discussions. However, the authority which represents the Palestinians' rights is the PLO.

LE QUOTIDIEN: It is being said that lists of names are already being circulated....

'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid: I do not have any list. It was said that Egypt had a list but that is not true.

LE QUOTIDIEN: The next stage should bring together the U.S. and Israeli foreign ministers and you in Washington. Can it be said at this stage that Egypt has to some extent received a mandate from the PLO?

'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid: It is impossible to talk of a mandate, but there is coordination. Egypt is not working alone and that must be clearly understood. We have succeeded in establishing effective cooperation between us and the Palestinians.

Mubarak Receives Telephone Call From Al-Qadhdhafi

NC0201214390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2137 GMT 2 Jan 90

[Text] Cairo, 2 Jan (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received a telephone call from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, this evening. During the conversation, the two leaders exchanged views on a number of issues of interest to both countries. Col al-Qadhdhafi congratulated President Mubarak on the occasion of the new year and wished Egypt and its people lasting progress and prosperity.

Further on Qatari Amir's Visit to Cairo

Holds Talks With Mubarak

NC0201102490 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 2 Jan 90

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and Qatari Amir His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Hamad Al Thani held a session of bilateral talks at the presidential office this morning. On the agenda is the discussion of ways to promote bilateral cooperation, as well as the

discussion of Arab issues of mutual interest to both countries, foremost of which is the Palestinian issue.

Sidqi, 'Abd-al-Majid Comment

NC0201114090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1030 GMT 2 Jan 90

[Text] Cairo, 2 Jan (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi said that President Husni Mubarak and Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Hamad Al Thani discussed bilateral relations, developments in the Palestinian issue, and inter-Arab ties and that they exchanged views on the international developments during their talks this morning.

He said they also discussed cooperation between the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] and the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC]. He noted that several formulas were proposed for this cooperation, which will crystalize during the meetings of the two countries' delegations tomorrow.

Sidqi said there are many proposals for joint projects between Egypt and Qatar to be discussed, especially in land cultivation and investment and in other spheres.

He noted that the establishment of the Arab cooperation councils and their working together are steps toward further Arab cooperation. He said that the Arab regional councils, the GCC, the ACC, and the Arab Maghreb Union consolidate cohesion among the Arab countries and added that the ACC is open to any country wishing to join, upon consent of the founding countries.

The prime minister asserted: There is cooperation between Egypt and the GCC member countries, and Egypt has good relations with all the GCC countries. We welcome any form of cooperation between the Arab countries.

Meanwhile, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said after the Mubarak-Khalifah talks that today's meeting will give momentum to the distinguished relations between the two countries. He described the relations between Egypt and Qatar as excellent. He said the two countries are about to lay a framework for bilateral cooperation and consolidation of bilateral relations through three agreements to be signed later today.

He said the three agreements are: an information agreement to be signed at the Information Ministry, an economic agreement to be signed at the Foreign Ministry, and an agreement to set up a joint Egyptian-Qatari committee under the chairmanship of the two countries' foreign ministers, to be in charge of the continuation of political consultation between Egypt and Qatar.

He said the Qatari delegation members will meet with their Egyptian counterparts this afternoon.

Information Agreement Signed

NC0201202190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1910 GMT 2 Jan 90

[Excerpts] Cairo, 2 Jan (MENA)—Egypt and the State of Qatar signed an information agreement here this evening. The agreement aims to bolster the ties of Arab and Islamic brotherhood and promote cooperation between the two countries in the field of information within the framework of the strong relations between the two countries. Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif signed the agreement for Egypt and Minister of Information Hamad Bin-Suhaym Al Thani signed on behalf of Qatar.

The agreement states that the two countries will exchange news reports and information, and that this is bound to strengthen Arab and Islamic accord and common trends, and contribute to the realization of the two countries' sublime objectives. [passage omitted]

The Egyptian-Qatari information agreement provides for the encouragement of the publication in local newspapers and magazines of news reports and information concerning each country. It also provides for the encouragement of the entry and regular distribution of newspapers and magazines in each of the two countries. The agreement provides for exchanging technology between press establishments and for facilitating the task of reporters. It also makes provision for the exchange of visits by reporters and media officials of the two countries.

The information agreement provides for the formation of a joint subcommittee as part of the joint higher committee, to meet in Cairo and Doha alternately every year. The subcommittee's first meeting will be held within 3 months at the latest. The subcommittee will make proposals on new aspects of cooperation between the two countries in the information field. [passage omitted]

Higher Joint Committee Planned

NC0201193990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1801 GMT 2 Jan 90

[Text] Cairo, 2 Jan (MENA)—Egypt and Qatar signed an agreement this evening providing for the formation of a higher joint committee to promote and develop bilateral ties in all spheres.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, signed the agreement on behalf of Egypt. Qatari Foreign Minister 'Abdallah Bin-Khalifah al-'Atiyah signed for Qatar.

The agreement states that the foreign ministers of the two countries will chair the committee, which will also include representatives of the sectors concerned with bilateral cooperation.

The agreement specifies the aim of the committee as follows: to draw up the necessary principles and regulations to bolster cooperation, particularly in the economic, trade, cultural, scientific, technical, and social fields. The committee also aims to encourage trade and

increase financial and banking cooperation. It will meet once a year, and the venue will alternate between Cairo and Doha.

Egyptian Economy Minister Dr Yusri Mustafa and his Qatari counterpart Hamad Bin-Jasim Al Thani also signed an agreement on trade and economic and technical cooperation, and on the protection of investments in the two countries.

The agreement provides for encouraging the use of national methods of transport, participation in trade fairs in both countries, the promotion of visits by businessmen, and the exchange of technical expertise. It also seeks to promote cooperation in the fields of agriculture, livestock, energy, transport, communications, and construction. It aims to encourage the movement of capital and to offer facilities and guarantees for capital and the establishment of joint companies, particularly in the industrial, construction, and tourism fields.

Supports 'Unified Arab Strategy'

NC0401082190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0750 GMT 4 Jan 90

[Text] Cairo, 4 Jan (MENA)—Qatar's Amir His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Hamad Al Thani has stressed that the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Arab Cooperation Council, and all Arabs are trying to reach a solution for the no war, no peace state between Iraq and Iran, the Lebanese crisis, and the Palestinian issue.

In a press statement he made following the official farewell ceremony he was accorded at the al-Qubbah presidential palace this morning, Shaykh Khalifah said Qatar feels love and appreciation for President Mubarak and the government and people of Egypt, foremost among them the economists, agriculture, industrial, and tourist experts.

In response to a question on Mubarak's call to adopt a unified Arab strategy to face up to the giant economic groupings, His Highness Shaykh Khalifah said, "We support such a strategy".

His highness then answered another question on what the Gulf countries could contribute in the investment sphere to establish a single strong Arab entity. He said there are several issues that Gulf countries could promote.

Joint Communique Issued

NC0401145790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1150 GMT 4 Jan 90

[Text] Cairo, 4 Jan (MENA)—Egypt and Qatar have underlined their continued support for the Palestinian people's intifadah in the occupied territories, which has entered its third year. They appealed to the international community to support the intifadah and to call on Israel to stop the acts of repression and violence carried out by the Israeli occupation troops, which violate the principles of human rights and contravene international norms and treaties.

The two countries paid tribute to the wise policy pursued by the PLO and the important political gains it made at the international level. They reiterated their support for the ongoing efforts to reach a just and comprehensive settlement of the Palestinian issue, enabling the Palestinians to enjoy their legitimate rights.

In a joint communique issued in both Cairo and Doha at the conclusion of the official visit to Egypt by Qatari Amir His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Hamad Al Thani, the two countries agreed to accelerate efforts to turn the current cease-fire between Iraq and Iran into a comprehensive settlement so that peace and stability will prevail in the Gulf region.

The two countries expressed their satisfaction over the recent positive developments regarding the Lebanese crisis. They appealed to international and Lebanese parties to lend their support to President Ilyas al-Hirawi and the national reconciliation government in Lebanon so that they can continue their efforts to implement the national accord document in full. The two sides expressed their great eagerness to promote Arab solidarity in general and their close bilateral ties in particular in an atmosphere of mutual understanding and trust.

The two countries stressed that the establishment of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] and the Arab Maghreb Union alongside the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] constitutes a positive step toward mobilizing Arab capabilities in accordance with and as a sign of support for the Arab League Charter. The following is the text of the communique:

Proceeding from the long-standing and firmly established relations between the Arab Republic of Egpyt and the State of Qatar, reflecting the close fraternal ties between them, and in response to an invitation by President Husni Mubarak of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Qatari Amir His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Hamad Al Thani paid an official visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt between 4 Jumada al-Thani of Hegira year 1410 [no ending date as received], corresponding to 1-4 January 1990. His highness the amir was accorded an overwhelming official and popular reception which sincerely reflects the genuine, deep-rooted, and historic relations between the two sisterly states and demonstrates the amity and appreciation harbored by the Egyptian president, government, and people toward the amir, government, and people of Qatar.

In an atmosphere of genuine brotherhood, full understanding, and eagerness to promote Arab solidarity in general and the close bilateral cooperation in particular, the two Arab leaders held talks that were marked by full mutual trust. The views of the two sides were identical on all topics under discussion during the talks, which were attended by a number of senior officials from both countries.

His highness the amir reviewed the results of the 10th summit of the leaders of the GCC, which was held in Muscat 18-21 December 1989. The president of the Arab Republic of Egypt voiced great appreciation for the efforts undertaken by the GCC to consolidate the march of cooperation and promote inter-Arab action, with a view to achieving comprehensive Arab unity and serving joint Arab-Islamic interests.

President Muhammad Husni Mubarak praised the GCC Muscat declaration of 21 December 1989, which underscored the principles of neighborliness and mutual respect for national sovereignty, underlined dialogue and negotiations as an effective way for settling disputes among countries, and stressed the principle of peaceful coexistence among nations as a cornerstone of international peace and security.

The two sides affirmed that the establishment of the ACC as well as the Arab Maghreb Union alongside the GCC constitutes an important and positive step toward mobilizing Arab capabilities in accordance with and as a sign of support for the Arab League Charter.

His highness the amir of Qatar paid tribute to the prominent role played by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak at the Arab level and expressed his appreciation for the tangible positive progress in relations between the Arab sisterly states and their determination to develop these relations to serve the interests of the Arab world.

The two sides affirmed their continued support for the intifadah of the struggling Palestinian people in the occupied territories, which has entered its third year. They appealed to the international community to support the intifadah and call on Israel to end the acts of repression and violence by the Israeli occupation troops, which violate the principles of human rights and contravene international norms and treaties. They paid tribute to the wise policy pursued by the PLO and its important diplomatic gains at the international level. They reiterated their support for the ongoing efforts to reach a just, comprehensive, and durable settlement that enables the fraternal Palestinians to attain their legitimate national rights, including their right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent state on their land in an atmosphere of security, freedom, and peace.

His Highness Shaykh Khalifah commended President Mubarak's perseverance and his intensive efforts to serve the Palestinian cause in particular and the issues of the Arab nation in general. He asserted that these efforts are deserving of appreciation and gratitude.

The two sides expressed their support for continued peace efforts to hold a UN-supervised international conference in which all parties concerned, including the PLO, will participate on an equal basis.

They also agreed on the need to redouble efforts to turn the cease-fire reached in the Gulf region into a comprehensive peaceful settlement of the Iran-Iraq dispute on the basis of UN Resolution 598. They also expressed appreciation for the efforts being made by the UN secretary general to remove obstacles impeding the peace negotiations between Iran and Iraq. They called on the members of the UN Security Council, especially the permanent members, to support these efforts with all possible means to help launch direct negotiations under the auspicies of the UN secretary general and secure the release of prisoners of war without delay.

The two sides also assessed the situation in Lebanon and expressed satisfaction at positive developments in this fraternal country. They expressed appreciation for the prominent role played by the Arab tripartite committee in concluding the al-Ta'if agreement.

The two countries appealed to the international and local parties concerned to support President Ilyas al-Hirawi, the national accord government, and the Lebanese parliament in their efforts to guarantee the full implementation of the al-Ta'if agreement. By so doing, the communique said, they will have preserved Lebanon's Arabism, unity, and territorial integrity and enabled that fraternal country to restore peace, which is necessary for progress and prosperity.

His highness the Qatari amir expressed his confidence that President Mubarak's wise chairmanship of the OAU [Organization for African Unity] will strengthen peace and cooperation in the continent, promote the OAU's lofty goals, and bolster Arab-African cooperation.

The two sides expressed their appreciation for the results of the conference for Arab-European dialogue which was held in the French capital on 21 and 22 December 1989 and attended by the Arab and EC foreign ministers. The two sides expressed their belief that the conference, which was held at the initiative of French President Francois Mitterrand, will promote ties between the Arab countries and the EC and thereby serve the cause of progress and welfare in Europe and the Arab world.

Concerning international relations, the two sides expressed hope that the world will witness the end of East-West tensions and the further consolidation of detente. The two sides expressed their hope that the East-West rapprochement will further world peace and thus pave the way for closer economic cooperation among world countries. Economic cooperation, the communique said, benefits all nations and provides a suitable atomosphere for the implementation of development plans in the developing countries.

The two sides declared their support for all the efforts exerted to tackle the problems facing the international community, including those of drought, desertification, pollution, and epidemics.

Concerning bilateral relations, the two sides noted with great satisfaction the positive developments in this area and the accelerating pace of their cooperation in all fields. The two sides reviewed cooperation in the economic, commercial, and cultural fields as well as in education, information,

labor policies, transport, and comunications. Measures to bolster cooperation in all these fields were discussed. The two sides signed an agreement for commercial, economic, and technical cooperation and the encouragement of investment and another agreement for cooperation in media-related fields. The two sides also agreed to form a higher joint committee which will be chaired by the foreign ministers of the two countries. The committee will follow up on the implementation of cooperation projects and review priorities. The meetings of the committee will be held annually and on a rotating basis in the capitals of the two countries.

The two sides agreed to encourage the role of the private sector in both countries and thus enable it to play a complementary role in the achievement of development, the stimulation of investment, and the growth of trade in both countries.

His highness the amir of Qatar expressed his pleasure with his visit to Egypt and the signs of development and construction which he saw during the visit. He also expressed his appreciation for the cordial and warm reception accorded him and said that the love and true friendship which he sensed during the visit are symbolic of Egyptian hospitality and the strength of bilateral relations.

Concludes Visit, Departs

NC0401090990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0845 GMT 4 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 4 Jan (MENA)—Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Hamad Al Thani left Cairo today for Algiers after a 4-day visit to Egypt. He was seen off at Cairo airport by President Husni Mubarak. [passage omitted]

Interviewed by AL-AHRAM

NC3112063989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2200 GMT 30 Dec 89

[Text] Cairo, 30 Dec (MENA)—Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Hamad Al Thani has asserted that relations between Qatar and Egypt are eternal, solid, and very close. He expressed his eagerness to develop cooperation between the two countries in various fields in the interests of the two peoples and the Arab and Muslim nations.

In an interview with AL-AHRAM to be published tomorrow, 31 December, the Qatari amir said he is proud of his long-standing relations with Egyptian leaders. He added that he will not forget his meetings with late Presidents Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir and Anwar al-Sadat.

Shaykh Khalifah also praised his close relations with President Husni Mubarak, noting that they go back to the 1970's, when President Mubarak visited Qatar as vice president and special envoy of late President Anwar al-Sadat.

He asserted that his talks with President Mubarak will be marked by frankness and clarity, adding that there are no limits to the scope of cooperation and the agreements which may be concluded to further bolster relations between the two countries.

On the issues which he will discuss with President Mubarak during his visit to Egypt, Shaykh Khalifah remarked that there is no need to specify these issues when it comes to talks between brothers. However, he added, it goes without saying that Arab issues, particularly the Palestinian issue, will be a topic of discussion. In this regard, he praised the efforts of Egypt and President Mubarak to give an impetus to the peace process and resolve the Palestinian problem.

Shaykh Khalifah underlined the importance of Arab solidarity, which is the Arab nation's shield against challenges and threats. He said what Israel fears is having to face a strong Arab solidarity or a unified Arab view.

The Qatari amir stated that the Palestinian intifadah has gained the support of all Arab states. He pointed out that it is resounding around the world and has exposed Israel's sham democracy and blatant violation of human rights in the occupied territories.

Shaykh Khalifah appealed to the superpowers and peace-loving powers to redouble their efforts to curb Israel's arrogance and to urge it to respond to the world's demand to settle the Palestinian problem and grant the Palestinian people their just rights.

In his interview, the Qatari amir appealed to all Lebanese powers to continue the march along the road to national accord and to exercise self-restraint and tolerance among themselves so that Lebanon can become a safe haven of peace and unity.

Shaykh Khalifah expressed his optimism that Iraq and Iran will respond to efforts to end the current state of neither war nor peace. He called on the two countries to continue negotiations which is the only way to settle their dispute.

Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah asserted that the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Arab Cooperation Council, and the Arab Maghreb Union are in harmony with pan-Arab objectives and that they provide practical opportunities for joint Arab action. He welcomed cooperation among these groupings within the framework of the Arab League Charter and other agreements and treaties.

Shaykh Khalifah underlined the importance of Arab-European dialogue, calling for a new approach to cooperation in a world marked by economic groupings and coordination.

Touching on the issue of Third World debt, he said that the debt issue has become one of the world's most serious and inflammatory dilemmas. He noted that the developing countries' debts now total more than $130 billion, or 50 percent of the combined total national product of these states.

Shaykh Khalifah pointed out that this problem will have negative effects on the international situation, adding that it may develop into an explosive socioeconomic and political crisis in several countries in the next few years. He said the problem cannot be resolved by regional solutions, but rather by collective efforts involving debtors and creditors.

In this regard, Shaykh Khalifah supported the solutions proposed by the Belgrade nonaligned summit last September. He called for reducing interest rates, canceling the debts of the least developed countries, and ensuring that the debt servicing burden is within the ability of indebted countries.

The Qatari amir asserted that the development march in Qatar has been continuing since he assumed responsibility for the country. He said that he is eager to achieve a comprehensive development which covers all spheres and aims at raising the standard of the Qatari people.

Shaykh Khalifah said it is natural for Qatar to benefit from Arab and foreign labor, so that it can enter the age of rennaissance. He asserted that the Egyptians play a significant role in this regard.

On current developments and changes in East Europe, his highness the Qatari amir said these developments brought about very important changes which will have outstanding political and economic results all over the world. His highness called for studying the potential impact of these changes on the Arab world, so that they can be faced in a manner which serves the common Arab interests.

Libya

Bush Remarks on Panama Invasion Questioned

LD0401104990 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 4 Jan 90

[Text] Tripoli, 4 Jan (JANA)—The U.S. President has claimed that when he assumed power there were three dictatorships in Latin America, and pointed out that after the invasion of Panama only Cuba and Nicaragua remain.

In a statement the day before yesterday, the U.S. President praised what he called the spread of democracy in Latin America, and claimed that he hoped to see the day when the western hemisphere will enjoy freedom and democracy.

The U.S. President did not explain which democracy and which freedom he meant. Are they the democracy of armed invasion of independent countries or the freedom to destroy the cities and render their inhabitants homeless?

The U.S. President did not explain what kind of democracy and freedom were spread in Panama after the U.S. invasion. Are they the building of detention camps, beseiging foreign missions, or desecrating the sanctity of the countries and their peoples? By saying that only Nicaragua and Cuba are the remaining countries did the U.S. President mean it is now their turn to benefit from U.S. democracy, or that the logic of U.S. arrogance is the thing that moves the armies and spreads freedom Yankee style?

Al-Qadhdhafi To Hold Press Conference 5 Jan

LD0401225790 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 4 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, is to hold a news conference on 5 January. Saliha Bahri, correspondent of National Radio, has sent us the following dispatch on the prevailing atmosphere prior to the news conference.

[Bahri] Sources close to the Libyan foreign media center have confirmed to us that more than 150 foreign journalists from Arab and European countries will participate in this conference. Most of the press delegates have come from Syria, Egypt, Tunisia, Jordan, Lebanon, the PDRY, Palestine, the USSR, Japan, Yugoslavia, Hungary, Spain, and Italy to cover this events and have already arrived in Tripoli.

So far, we do not know what issue will be debated tomorrow because we have had no information on the subject and the venue of the conference. Furthermore, Libyan newspapers and local media have not mentioned the issue. This may be due to security reasons, as stated by some people. However, we have learned from diplomatic sources that this news conference will undoubtedly deal with varous current international issues, led by the changes taking place in Eastern Europe, the events in Romania, the military intervention in Panama, and other hot issues which take prominent positions in world events currently. [passage omitted]

Group Marks Anniversary of Planes' Downing

LD0401144590 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 4 Jan 90

[Text] Today, Thursday, 4 January, marks the first anniversary of the hideous U.S. aggression against the Jamahiriyah, and of the U.S. aggression against two Libyan reconnaissance planes and their downing in international waters while they were on a routine reconnaissance mission.

This ugly aggression against the Libyan Arab people proves the failure of the Reagan administration's hostile style to harm the determination of the Libyan Arab people and showed America's face before the international public opinion in an ugly way, and created a hostile atmosphere against U.S. policy throughout the world.

On this occasion, the permanent secretariat of the movement of social-progressive Mediterranean countries issued a statement today which reads:

This aggression falls within the framework of the imperialist and terrorist policy adopted by the U.S. Administration to impose its hegemony on the region's peoples and its attempt to harm Al-Fatih's international revolution. The secretariat emphasizes the support of socialist and progressive forces and of the Mediterranean peace committee for the Libyan Arab people and its international revolution and its brave confrontation against all plots and schemes that are aimed at undermining its freedom and independence. The secretariat indicates that the mobilization of fleets of warship and the presence of foreign military bases in the Mediterranean is a source of concern that threatens international peace and security in the region and in the world.

The statement stresses that any aggression against Mediterranean people is considered an aggression against all the region's peoples, and a violation of all international norms and laws and peoples rights to freedom and independence.

Romania's Mazilu Thanks Officials for Support

LD0401145790 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1230 GMT 4 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Dumitru Mazilu, first deputy president of the Romanian National Salvation Front, has hailed the Great Jamahiriyah's support for the Romanian people. In interview with this station's correspondent in Bucharest, he stated: [voice in background presumably Mazilu's in Romanian]

[Begin Mazilu recording in Romanian with superimposed Arabic translation] We thank you very much for your aid. Your aid will regenerate our revolution. Romania will be seen as an example of the transformation, as you mentioned, in international politics. We will pay much attention to our future foreign relations. I am sure that the leadership of the Libyan revolution will be determined to develop our relations and will not allow anyone to harm the friendship between Romania and the Great Jamahiriyah.

On behalf of the Romanian National Salvation Front, I thank for your support and hope that you will be on our side. We thank you for the doctors, the group of doctors, who arrived and hope that we will benefit from your help in the future, too, so that we can save the lives of those who were hurt during the revolution. The doctors will help in healing those people. And this is tangible assistance, tangible assistance from your country and we do appreciate it very much. Thank you very much. [end recording]

Replying to a question on the new orientations in Romania, First Deputy President of the National Salvation Front Mazilu said:

[Begin Mazilu recording in Romanian with superimposed Arabic translation] Before anything else we would like to transform the national economy, that is, to rebuild Romania in the economic field, and spiritually, and in other fields. This is a difficult task. We can, however, overcome it with the help of all citizens and the help of friendly countries. We are facing a number of economic difficulties; we have also difficulties in agriculture as well as cultural difficulties.

We would like to rebuild the country. This can be done with the help of people's congresses and committees which have been consolidated throughout Romania. We do not think of building a socialist or a (?capitalist) Romania; We want to build a society chosen by the people [words indistinct]. Ideas should be in the service of people; we do not want to be under the influence of ideas. Past experience has shown this is not a good path. We would like to see the people take power and the latter in the service of the former. This is our goal. I said to [words indistinct] we should choose only the best available in the world. [end recording]

Replying to a question on whether there are any plans for the people to own their own resources in the future, the first deputy president of the Romanian National Salvation Front said:

[Begin Mazilu recording in Romanian with superimposed Arabic translation] We look forward to achieving this through the direct participation of the Romanian people. Citizens throughout Romania will decide everything of concern to their lives, economically, culturally, and the rest. We want a civilized democracy, a direct democracy. Every region and every village will have real power as it used to have in the past. Although real power was only used for a short time, still we are determined to continue in the same way. We will not have a centralized dictatorship. We have rid ourselves of dictatorship. We need purely democratic bodies which will cooperate with each other so that the power might be in the hands of the people. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Bulgarian Leader Reassures Leader on Muslims

LD0401130690 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1230 GMT 4 Jan 90

[Text] A telephone conversation took place today between the brother leader of the revolution and the Bulgarian President [as heard] Petur Mladenov, during which the latter reassured the brother leader of the revolution about the Muslims' situation in Bulgaria.

The Bulgarian president, Petur Mladenov, told the brother leader of the revolution that Muslims in Bulgaria enjoy the same freedom and democracy as the rest of the sons of the Bulgarian people, stressing to the brother leader that the deep and radical transformations in Bulgaria seek to establish the people's authority and real democracy.

President Mladenov asserted to the brother leader of the revolution his country's eagerness to continue the consolidation of relations between the Great Jamahiriyah

and Bulgaria, pointing out that his country's relations with the Great Jamahiriyah are permanent and not temporary.

Islamic Group Welcomes Moves

LD0401215690 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 4 Jan 90

[Text] The provisional secretariat of the International Islamic Popular Command today issued a statement on the Muslims in Bulgaria. The statement said that, while following the issues of Muslims and Islamic minorities everywhere in line with the resolutions of the first general conference and in response to the instigations of its leader and founder, the brother revolutionary Muslim Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the International Islamic Popular Command has followed the current developments in Bulgaria, by direct contact and via news reports, especially those developments concerning the rights of the Muslim minority in Bulgaria. It highly values the new Bulgarian government's spirit, which is characterized by freedom, resistance to injustice, and commencement of the recognition of human rights, foremost among which is the freedom to choose one's name and religion.

The statement added that the International Islamic Popular Command appreciates all the honest efforts and sincere initiatives made for the achievement of that objective, efforts we cannot mention without pointing out the contacts, visits, and talks made by the brother revolutionary Muslim Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, in this context.

Sudan

'Massacre' of People in White Nile Region Noted

AB0301113490 London BBC World Service in English 0730 GMT 3 Jan 90

[From the "Network Africa" program]

[Text] It was not a happy end of the year for people in Sudan. Reports coming in from that country speak about a terrible massacre in the White Nile Province. Eyewitnesses and survivors have claimed that between 500 and 1,200 displaced southerners were killed on the 28th of December by armed Arab tribesmen. The incident happened in al-Jabalayn, about 500 km south of the capital, Khartoum. Nearly a quarter of a million displaced southerners in this region, mainly of the Upper Nile Shilluk tribe, fled their homes because of the war in the south. From Khartoum, the capital, here is a report by Gwang Obat:

[Begin Obat recording] In the early morning of December 28th, a wealthy farmer drove his lorry into al-Jabalayn from his neighboring village of (Nkueka). He came to pick up 11 Shilluk laborers who were harvesting his sorghum crop. But the farm hands refused to go, saying that they were still celebrating Christmas. The farmer then allegedly tried to force them to go to work and in the ensuing argument he was killed. At 8 o'clock, the police arrested the 11 Shilluk.

(Nkueka) village, about 5 km away, is inhabited by Asaba, formerly nomadic Arab tribespeople. They settled in the area and apparently were armed by former Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi to create a local tribal militia. They heard of their kinsman's death at 11 o'clock. At once, they mobilized and descended on al-Jabalayn in eight lorries. They cordoned off those parts of the town inhabited by Shilluk and other southerners and started shooting indiscriminately. They used AK-47's, G3's, and other weapons according to one survivor. Small children were disemboweled, he said and some were thrown into burning huts. Many were caught unawares at Christmas tribal dances, while others fled to the police for protection, but the police withdrew under heavy fire leaving the southerners to be slaughtered. A total of 91 were massacred at the police station alone and the killings continued all day and into the night.

Yesterday afternoon, I met ruling Command Council member Brigadier Pio Yukwan Deng. Gen Deng, himself a Shilluk, denied that the dead total more than a thousand. He said: I was told by the local military commander that no more than 181 were killed and 35 wounded. But a local government officer, (Isah Sabit), believes that more than 500 were killed and that the massacre was planned. These are the militias of Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, he stressed, and they were only waiting for an excuse. [end recording]

Authorities Report 186 Dead

EA0401195390 Khartoum SUNA in English 1630 GMT 4 Jan 90

[Text] Khartoum, 4 January (SUNA)—One hundred and eighty-six people were killed in the tribal clashes in Al-Jabalayn area, central Sudan, police authorities said here today. Police authorities, in a press statement, released here today, said 17 persons were arrested for their involvement in the clashes while some injuries were hospitalised.

The incident, [words indistinct] started between individuals from Alaha "Arab" and Shilluk, a southern Sudan tribe, the statement said, adding that the two groups took part in the clashes and they used weapons.

The police authorities confirmed that it contained the situation and investigation on the incident is currently underway.

Meanwhile, deputy governor of Upper Nile Region, Manjo Ajak, visited Kosti where he was acquainted on the security situation in the area. Ajak expressed rfgret over the incident, reaffirming that the government would carry on [word indistinct] a just investigation. [passage indistinct]

Rebels Claim Over 2,000 Killed

EA0401171690 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 4 Jan 90

[Commentary by Rebecca Joshua Okwashe]

[Text] From al-Arba'in to al-Balayn—On 28 December, a genocidal act of gross proportion took place in al-Jabalayn town, about midway between Al-Renk in the south and Kosti in the north, and 30 km north of the south-north border. More than 2,000 displaced southerners were massacred by Arab militia recruited and armed by the Khartoum government.

The reaction of the authorities in Khartoum was typically predictable. First they tried to suppress news about the incident, and when this could not be done, they attempted to play down the gravity of the situation. Indeed, the spokesman of the junta was reported as saying that it is only about 200 who perished, as if he was not talking about human beings.

The news of al-Jabalayn massacre began to trickle out by the beginning of the new year. The report from the area says that the problem started as an argument between a wealthy Arab farmer and his employees, some displaced Shilluk tribesmen. The former wanted his employees, who were on Christmas holidays, to resume work on 28 December, whereas the latter thought that the Christmas holidays were not yet over. The argument got heated, developing into a fight resulting in the death of the farmer. Those who killed the wealthy farmer were arrested by the police authorities in al-Jabalayn for the law to take its course.

This legal step did not satisfy the Arab tribesmen who mobilized and convoyed on Al-Jabalayn settlement of the displaced in lorries, armed to the teeth with machine guns and automatic rifles. They started shooting indiscriminately at the helpless displaced, some of whom may have not yet learned about the incident earlier that morning. The grass huts were set on fire. Even the children could not escape this heinous act. They were callously thrown into the blaze. It is a barbaric and outrageous conduct that cannot be justified by any civilized society. It was a dark day for the poor displaced, who thought they went to al-Jabalayn seeking safety. By the end of the day, more than 2,000 men, women, and children were dead.

The complicity of the authorities in this wanton killing of the innocent is beyond any doubt. Independent sources report that more than 90 people were killed in the police station, where they sought refuge for protection.

This incident raises a number of questions that the junta must answer. To claim that the militia armed themselves legitimately to protect their lands and property is absurd, to say the least. Were these innocent displaced people a threat to the land and property of the armed militia? Why kill everybody when the culprit was already in the hands of the police? The junta claims to have sent forces to the area to restore calm. What calm to restore, when the only people left there are dead ones?

When a similar massacre took place in al-Arba'in in 1987, the government of the day in Khartoum used similar arguments to condone the criminal act. Interestingly, those who brought to light the scale and extent of the al-Arba'in massacre are now languishing in prison. They were arrested, not by the Al-Sadiq government, but by the present junta, for no reason other than exposing that callous act.

Now the regime without shame shrugs its shoulders and says that these are Al-Sadiq's militia. Nothing could be more insulting. If the junta cares about the lives of these innocent people, the least it can now do is to launch an impartial investigation into Al-Jabalayn massacre so that the perpetrators of this human tragedy are brought to book.

Al-Arba'in and al-Jabalayn are not isolated incidents. These are an expression of the massacre and wicked policy of the successive minority clique regimes of Khartoum in trying to turn the present war into a racial war. They are bound to fail.

'Arafat Arrives in Khartoum on Official Visit

EA0301093690 Omdurman Domestic Service in English 1950 GMT 2 Jan 90

[Text] The president of the Palestinian state, Sayyid Yasir 'Arafat, arrived in Khartoum this afternoon on an official state visit to Sudan. He was welcomed at Khartoum airport by the president of the Revolution Command Council [RCC], Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir; members of the RCC; the minister of foreign affairs; the ambassador of the Palestinian State in Sudan; and the Arab ambassadors to Sudan. The two presidents [words indistinct] problems of common concern to the two countries and the latest developments in the Palestinian problem.

Holds Talks With Al-Bashir

EA0301213990 Khartoum SUNA in English 1617 GMT 3 Jan 90

[Text] Khartoum, 3 January (SUNA)—Sudanese-Palestinian talks have been held here today under the chairmanship of General 'Umar al-Bashir, Command Council chairman, and Yasir 'Arafat, president of the Palestinian state, who arrived here yesterday on an official visit to the Sudan.

President 'Arafat has described the talks as being "successful" and that they have talked about bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest on both Arab, regional and international levels. President 'Arafat said the talks have centred on the importance of backing and supporting the Palestinian uprising "intifadah", in the occupied Arab territories, against the Israeli rule. He said the

two sides have also underlined the importance of coordinating positions between the Sudanese and the Palestinian sides on the various issues of interest.

On the Arab-Israeli dialogue, President 'Arafat has expressed his regrets over the various obstacles being posed by the Israeli Government and, particularly, the position of Shamir, the prime minister of the Israeli entity. He said the decision of the Israeli prime minister to fire one of his ministers because he has contacted Palestinians reveals the fanatic position of the Israelis vis-a-vis the peace process in the region.

Departs After 2-Day Visit

EA0301214290 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Jan 90

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat, president of the Palestinian state, left Khartoum at 1700 hours [1500 GMT] after a 2-day visit to the Sudan, during which he participated in the country's independence anniversary celebrations. Bidding him farewell was Lieutenent General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, Revolutiuon Command Council [RCC] chairman, a number of members of the RRC, ministers, ambassadors accredited to the Sudan, the Palestinian ambassador, and senior officials. [passage indistinct]

Garang Reportedly Pays 'Secret' Visit to Israel

EA0401190090 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 4 Jan 90

[Text] Diplomatic sources in Paris say that John Garang, the leader of the rebel movement, paid a secret 3-day visit to Tel Aviv this week. Quoting the sources, the Kuwaiti newspaer, AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM said that Garang met Yitzhak Shamir, the prime minister of the Israeli enemy; Yitzhak Rabin, the minister of defense; Moshe Arens, the foreign minister; and Ariel Sharon, the minister of industry and commerce. The sources say that Garang showed the Israeli officials the peace proposals presented by Sudan. The sources said that the Israeli officials rejected the proposals.

Junta Member Meets With Egyptian Ambassador

EA0401125890 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 2145 GMT 3 Jan 90

[Text] Staff Brigadier Dominic Kassiano, National Salvation Command Council member, met in his office at the Republican Palace this morning [3 January] with Mr Muhammad Taqi al-Din al-Sharbini, the Egyptian ambassador in Khartoum. At the meeting they discussed questions concerning the two sisterly countries; relief in the south of the country and the ongoing efforts to restore it; and efforts to solve the transportation issue, which [word indistinct] reaching the relief.

Report Recommends Expansion of Relief Corridors

EA0401083990 Khartoun SUNA in Arabic 1716 GMT 3 Jan 90

[Text] Khartoum, 3 Jan (SUNA)—The technical committee looking into stage two of Operation Lifeline held its final meeting yesterday under the chairmanship of Mr Peter Urad Ador, the minister of relief and migrants.

During the meeting the committee (?drew up) a report for submission to the Council of Ministers. The report confirmed the continuation of the corridors for the forwarding of relief, which were agreed upon earlier. It also confirmed the need to supervise relief and related operations, and to ensure that relief is handed over to the citizens and civilian victims.

The report stressed that the rebel movement and the governments of neighboring states would have to accept the presence of Sudanese observers among those working to implement Operation Lifeline. There would be no objection to the presence of observers from (?those states) or the United Nations if this is requested by the second party [as received].

The second stage of Operation Lifeline will be devoted to rehabilitation and development. Some of the relief will be given to migrants from the southern regions, Kurdufan and Darfur, who are living in camps in the national capital. The second stage will pay special attention to victims in Terakeka and Rumbek. The corridors of security will be broadened by opening the Wau-rumbek and Juba-Terake-ka Roads and the road from Moyo in Uganda to Kajo Kaji. A corridor for western Equatoria will also be created. During this stage river transport will be given priority.

OPEC Fund To Resume Assistance, Provide Loans

EA0301184890 Khartoun SUNA in English 1005 GMT 3 Jan 90

[Text] Khartoum, 3 Jan (SUNA)—OPEC fund agreed to resume its assistance to Sudan, following an agreement to repay a four million [currency not given] due debts to the fund for 1990. The fund promised to provide Sudan with a loan to [passage indistinct].

The agreement was concluded following talks recently conducted in Vienna between the fund and the governor of the Bank of Sudan, Mahdi al-Faqih.

The fund due debts to Sudan amounting to 18 million dollars and an agreement was [words indistinct] the finance minister, Dr. Sayyid 'Ali Zaki, and the fund officials on providing Sudan with new loans.

Bahrain

Note Addresses Iraqi 'Sabotage' of Resolution

LD2812182389 Tehran IRNA in English 1642 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 28, IRNA—Bahrain's Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah today termed rapid implementation of all articles of U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 "as a guarantee" for peace and security in the region.

Al Khalifah announced the above in his meeting in Manama with Iran's ambassador Hoseyn Naraqtyan, who handed a message from his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

The message dealt with the peace talks with the Iraqi aggressor, especially the Ba'thist regime's efforts to sabotage Resolution 598.

The Bahraini foreign minister appreciated the promotion of ties between his tiny island state and the Islamic Republic.

Kuwait

Prime Minister To Discuss Arms Supplies in Cairo

LD0401131490 Kuwait KUNA in English 1046 GMT 4 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, Jan 4 (KUNA)—The question of supplying Kuwait with Egyptian-made arms will be discussed during the visit to Egypt by H.H. the Kuwaiti Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah next week, it was reported here Thursday.

In an interview with KUNA here last night, Director General of the Arab Manufacturing Authority (AMA) Dr. Muhammad Yusif announced that the authority is ready to meet any Kuwaiti arms requests. He said the authority will show Shaykh Sa'd all its products of airplanes, missiles, vehicles and electronics, noting that the authority is ready of establishing joint ventures with Kuwait to develop Egypt's military products to meet Kuwaiti climate conditions.

He anticipated the Kuwait would increase its orders of the armored vehicles (Fahd) and jeeps, when Kuwait makes sure of the vehicles' efficiency. [passage omitted]

Taxation, Custom Agreement Signed With Libya

LD0301113190 Kuwait KUNA in English 1015 GMT 3 Jan 90

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 3 (KUNA)—Kuwait and Libya Wednesday agreed to exchange tax and custom exemption on air transport between them. Kuwait Finance Ministry Undersecretary 'Abd-al-Muhsin Yusuf al-Huna' and Libyan ambassador to Kuwait signed the agreement which aims at strengthening bilateral relations. A Finance Ministry statement said the agreement is designed to avert double taxation.

Oman

Sultan Reshuffles Cabinet, Creates New Ministry

JN0201140990 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1320 GMT 2 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Muscat, 2 Jan (WAKH)—His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman has made a limited reshuffle of his cabinet. The sultan established a new ministry called the Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training and changed the name of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs to the Ministry of Social Affairs.

With this reshuffle, the sultan appointed Sultan Bin-Nasir al-Wuhaybi as minister of water resources, Al-Mu'tasim Bin-Humud al-Busa'idi minister of labor and vocational training, Shaykh Sumayl Bin-Ahmad al-Mu'shami minister of social affairs, Shaykh Muhammad Bin-'Ali al-Qutaybi minister of electricity and water, and Shaykh 'Amr Bin-Shumin al-Hufni minister of regional municipalities affairs. This was announced today in four decrees issued by the sultan. [passage omitted]

Qatar

Amir Leaves for Cairo on 4-Day Official Visit

JN0101090090 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0730 GMT 1 Jan 90

[Text] Doha, 1 Jan (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Hamad Al Thani, amir of the State of Qatar, left Doha for Cairo this morning on a 4-day official visit to Egypt at the invitation of President Husni Mubarak. Afterward he will go to Algeria on a similar visit.

The Qatari amir was seen off at Doha international airport by His Highness Shaykh Hamad Ibn-Khalifah Al Thani, deputy amir and heir apparent, and senior Qatari officials.

The Qatari amir is accompanied by a high-level official delegation comprised of Shaykh Hamad Ibn-Jasim Ibn-Hamad Al Thani, minister of economy and trade; Shaykh Hamad Ibn-Suhaym Al Thani, minister of information and culture; Dr Hasan Kamil, adviser to the amir; Dr 'Isa Ghanim al-Kuwari, amiri court affairs minister; 'Abdallah Khalifah al-'Atiyyah, minister of foreign affairs; Badr 'Umar al-Daf', Qatari ambassador to Egypt; and Yusuf 'Isa al- Nu'aymi, head of amiri protocol.

Sudanese RCC Official Departs Doha 24 Dec

JN2412115489 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1035 GMT 24 Dec 89

[Text] Doha, 24 Dec (WAKH)—Colonel Salah al-Din Muhammad Karrar, member of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council [RCC] and head of the RCC's Economic

Committee, left Doha this morning following a 5-day visit to the State of Qatar. During the visit, the Sudanese official discussed with a number of Qatari officials ways to bolster bilateral ties in the economic domains.

YAR, PDRY Ministers Arrive in Doha 22 Dec

JN2212183189 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1710 GMT 22 Dec 89

[Text] Doha, 22 Dec (WAKH)—Dr Muhammad 'Ali Muqbil, minister of health in the Yemen Arab Republic [YAR], and Salim Muhammad Jubran, minister of fisheries in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY], arrived in Doha today on a 2-day visit to Qatar.

The Yemeni ministers' visit is within the framework of a tour of a number of the region's states to convey joint messages from YAR President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, and 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party in the PDRY. The message deals with unionist steps taken between the two parts of Yemen.

United Arab Emirates

Trade, Economy Minister on USSR Agreement

JN0501120390 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0530 GMT 5 Jan 90

[Text] Moscow, 4 Jan (WAKH)—Sayf al-Jarwan, United Arab Emirates [UAE] minister of trade and economy, has expressed satisfaction over the outcome of his visit to the Soviet Union and meetings with Soviet officials, which resulted in an economic, trade, and technical agreement.

During a news conference he held at the end of his visit to the Soviet Union, Al-Jarwan said the talks gave him the impression the Soviet Union wants to strengthen and improve economic, political, trade, and investment relations with the Arab world in general, and the UAE in particular, especially in light of perestroyka and the openness to the outside world.

He said the economic agreement signed with the Soviet foreign economic relations minister the day before yesterday will strengthen and improve relations between the two countries. He also said the agreement was reached following contacts and exchanged visits by both private and public sector delegations. It also was agreed to establish joint ventures in the Soviet Union. The feasibility of some of these projects is being studied, he added.

Al-Jarwan said: I believe there are many fields for investment in the Soviet Union now that legislation and guarantees have been established to encourage capital investment there.

Sayf al-Jarwan said he is optimistic about the positive results that will emerge from the agreement in the future, whether related to investment or to trade exchange and ways of enhancing it. He said the agreement stipulates a joint committee be set up under the auspices of the ministries of trade and economy in both countries to follow up on implementation of joint projects and discuss new channels for improving these relations in the future. He pointed out new protocols will be signed in the future by experts from the two sides, especially between the UAE Chamber of Commerce and the Soviet Union's Chamber of Trade and Industry. He also said the next meeting will be held in Abu Dhabi and an invitation has been extended to the Soviet minister to visit the UAE.

Al-Jarwan said a protocol had been signed between the Abu Dhabi Chamber of Trade and Industry and the Soviet Union's Chamber of Trade. He also said secondary agreements now are being studied, and these are mentioned in the signed economic agreement.

The UAE minister of trade and economy said the talks he conducted today with the Soviet first deputy foreign minister dealt with economic ties and the Soviet Union's position on Arab causes, particularly the Palestine question, which is the core of Middle East conflict. He said: I have the impression the Soviet Union adheres to its stance on supporting and backing the Arab world, and searching for ways to achieve a just solution to the Palestine question by convening an international conference of all parties, including the PLO, to achieve a formula guaranteeing the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, establishing their independent state, and implementing the UN Security Council resolutions.

He said the Soviet Union supports dialogue and peace between Iraq and Iran and hopes the dialogue will be crowned by implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 598 after the two countries have responded it.

President Receives YAR, PDRY Ministers

JN2412141989 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 24 Dec 89

[Text] His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], has received a joint message from Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Yemen Arab Republic [YAR], and 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Central Committee of the Yemeni Socialist Party in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY].

The message was conveyed to the UAE president by YAR Health Minister Dr Muhammad 'Ali Muqbil and PDRY Fisheries Minister Salim Muhammad Jubran in a reception at noon today accorded them by the president at his office.

The message concerns steps taken to achieve Yemeni unity according to the Aden agreement. The message also notes the fraternal ties existing between the UAE and the two parts of Yemen.

President Saddam Husayn Delivers Army Day Speech

JN0501105090 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0808 GMT 5 Jan 90

[Speech by President Saddam Husayn marking the 69th anniversary of the establishment of the Iraqi Army, on 5 January in Baghdad—live or recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful the compassionate. O great Iraqi people, O sons of the Arab nation, O strong valiant men of our Armed Forces. The 6th of January of each year is no ordinary day; it is a banner flying high on a glorious summit in the life of our nation and people. Since 1921, this day has been an immortal epic in the life of our people in Iraq and in the life of the Arab nation. It emerged after a period of slumber and abandonment of self and duty that had lasted since the Arab Revolution of 1916 until the day Baghdad abandoned itself and its duty, going out of orbit and off course for known reasons and circumstances. [sentence as heard]

On 6 January 1921, the day the first groups of our Armed Forces fighters were formed, an immortal epic began in the lives of the people; it was, and will continue to be, an immortal epic in the life of the entire nation. Iraq's Army proved to be the army of the Arab nation through its pan-Arab faith and sentiments and through its struggle and fighting whenever required as a pan-Arab duty. Everyone has attested to the great performance of the Iraqi Army in the Arab lands and the skies of Palestine, the Golan, and the Sinai. It fought against hostile, aggressive, and usurpist Zionism until the major battle of the second al-Qadisiyah broke out.

Dear brothers: In the life of nations and peoples, all bright moments and glorious days constitute a torch that lights with glory and victory all or most of the rest of their days. But the 6th of January was the day on which, through its pride, sacrifice, and great glory, dominated all or most of the shining and glorious pages in Iraq's modern history. It is the beginning of the march, the first step and gate that opened the way for the next steps. It opened the door for great hopes toward feeling, knowing, and stressing the requirements of the national self, its role, the pan-Arab duties, and the manner of their performance.

When we recall the 6th of January, it is not because it is a glorious day in itself, but because by recalling it and the subsequent course of events, we recall and learn the lessons, meanings, and all splendid achievements throughout the march of our people. It truly is an immortal epic full of great implications. It extends from the heroism of a group of Arab knights and martyrs, including officers Salah al-Din al-Sabbagh, Fahmi Sa'id, Kamil Salim, Mahmud Salman, and up to the era of those who ruled the country under the dominance of the British, during the reign of 'Abd-al-Ilah and Nuri al-Sa'id. They opened the door for the revolution of July 1958, the revolution of 14 Ramadan of 1963, and, finally, the great national revolution of July 1968, the glorious Army we are celebrating today.

From the time of the first group of martyrs and knights of Arabism, who resisted imperialism, subservience, and injustice, up through all the revolutions and national uprisings, and to 6 January 1921, a new history was written and an eternal epic recorded, not only for our brave Armed Forces, but for all our people and all our Arab nation.

Since the 1941 uprising until the next al-Qadisiyah and the achievements of the men of military industrialization, Iraq has grown with the passage of days and through its struggle until it arrived at its present state of dignity, glory, and triumph. The epic of the Army thus seemed to reflect the epic of the people; and that of the people became, in a way, the Army's epic.

Brothers, when we remember our Armed Forces and their eternal saga, when we celebrate our Armed Forces and their eternal day, it does not suffice here to recall the al-Qadisiyah and the role played by its men in one sentence here and another sentence there, because its role is not just one in a series which—on such an occasion—can be expressed in one significant sentence. As to what we so far have mentioned, the entire history and epic of the Armed Forces and the people have withstood a new kind of test and an enemy of strange nature. The sacrifices, struggle, and giving, without which all history would have lost balance, made have Iraq bigger and its significance clearer than ever. The entire epic has ascended to the summit of glory. Such is the second al-Qadisiyah; such was its test; and a part of it is dominated by all these meanings. What, then, can we say of the other meanings which extend to cover every aspect of the honor and life of our people—from their present to their future and past. The hearts of the al-Qadisiyah men were the shield of the people; their arms were the sword and banner of the people; their conviction was the primary source for yielding such results.

When we recall the role our stalwart men played in the Armed Forces, we must reiterate that their part in protecting Iraq and safeguarding the bastions of the nation in all its arenas is a never-ending role, and that the enemies' attempts to blot the dignity and epic of our Armed Forces' glory and our people's gains also are ceaseless.

On this day, when we mention the men in our Armed Forces, we recall our dear friend 'Adnan [Khayrallah, former defense minister], who played a prominent role in building and developing the Army before and through the al-Qadisiyah. He was in the vanguard of the brave fighters in their valiant epics, may God have mercy on him and lead him to the most spacious of His heavens. May God have mercy on all our pious martyrs who fell in a place known to glory, and may He lead them to the most spacious of His heavens.

Also on this day, we must keep in mind Almighty God's verse "against them make ready your strength to the utmost of your power" as a guide to keep our memory always alive and spirits constantly high. Thus we will avoid negligence and idleness concerning our national and pan-Arab duties. As we perform our duty of keeping ready and alert, which leaves no room for laziness and heedlessness, we reaffirm what we always have stressed; namely, that our intentions are not affected by our military capability, but rather, our capability corresponds to our intentions, which constantly emphasize that what we need is not permanent fighting, but permanent peace. When we resort to fighting, we do this only when fighting is indispensable to an honorable peace and a dignified life free of the intrigues of villains and the aggressions of the aggressors, may God protect us from their evil.

In this context, and registering yet again our desire for peace, we declare our readiness and willingness to open a new and honorable door of peace with Iran. This is summed up as follows:

I. Holding alternate meetings in Tehran and Baghdad between representatives of the leaderships in both countries under the auspices of the UN General Secretariat, and holding a direct dialogue between it and the leaders of the two countries to reach a joint understanding of the provisions of Security Council Resolution No 598 and the measures and timetables concerning the implementation of these provisions according to agreement of 8 August 1988. The meetings should begin and end within 3 months, irrespective of the outcome. Three meetings should be held in Baghdad and three in Tehran to create an atmosphere serving peace, directing public opinion in both countries toward peace, and helping find the best ways of achieving peace.

II. To help create the appropriate atmosphere for peace, with emphasis on humanitarian and divine concepts and human rights, in compliance with the minimum requirements of the Third Geneva Convention on prisoners of war [POW's], and in the framework of the desire to free all POW's held by both sides, we propose:

1. To carry out an immediate exchange of all sick and wounded POW's through the Red Cross.

2. To exchange all those who spent very long in captivity, especially the POW's captured at the beginning of the war on 4 September 1980 and up to the end of 1982. This should be achieved during no more than 2 weeks starting on the day Iran accepts this proposal. It is natural for this to occur according to the provisions of the Third Geneva Convention, to which both parties are signatories and which both parties still recognize. This also should be arranged with the Red Cross. This requires registration of all POW's held by both sides between September 1980 and the end of 1982.

3. To register all prisoners who previously have not been registered by the Red Cross immediately after the prisoners taken during 1980, 1981, and 1982 are exchanged as mentioned in No 2 above, and to release them according to a timetable, the responsibility for which should be entrusted to the Red Cross.

4. To immediately arrange visits to the prisoners in their captivity by their families in both countries.

III. To confirm our course of peace and the desire to give peoples of both countries the opportunity to deal with realities as they are, and out of respect for religious belief and its rituals, we propose the exchange of organized religious trips by peoples of both countries to the other country to visit the sacred religious places, provided this is done through land border points and through the airspace of both countries. To implement these trips and the abovementioned No 4, and to spread the climate of peace, we suggest offices of the two countries' airlines be opened in both countries and civilian airplanes be permitted to use the airspace and civilian airports of both countries.

O heroes of the Arab nation; O glorious Iraqis; O sons of the peoples of Iran. Through all the experiences of the hard struggle which we bravely fought against covetous invaders, you have known our course of peace and our constructive thinking. On this occasion today, we reaffirm our peaceful path and intentions to express the responsibility we have toward our nation and people, toward those who desire peace in Iran, and toward humanity as a whole. With these proposals, we recall—together with you—that it is Iraq, not Iran, which has been making peace initiatives and has confirmed the intention of peace through tangible acts since the war began, since the 8 August 1988 cease-fire agreement was reached, and up to now. We hope everyone will endeavor to achieve what will please God and what is desired by the peoples of the region. We hope everyone will, according to his capability and responsibility, endeavor to make Iran's rulers accept this initiative. We also hope our initiative will form a serious path leading to a permanent and comprehensive peace, where plots, aggression, expansionism, and intervention in domestic affairs will cease; and where peace, security, and tranquillity is achieved—not only between Iraq and Iran, but among all Arabian Gulf states and among Arabs and their countries on the one hand, and Iran and its peoples on the other. We seek success from God, who is our supporter against those who do not support justice and humanity.

Brothers, the fighters of military industrialization have concluded their annual program by innovating and manufacturing the al-'Abid system, for carrying satellites to outer space, and the Tammuz-1 missile. This innovation has created an unparalleled level of interest. We understand why the world is interested in something unexpected from a country like Iraq, especially since it is an Arab country that has its weight in the Arab nation's history and presence. We denounce those calls and signs, however, that showed astonishment at this, and that were made in the desire and hope that what transpired would not—as though science and knowledge must be monopolized by certain states, and as though independence and the right to exercise sovereignty is only

suitable for the other countries of the world and the enemies of the Arabs, but not for Arabs.

Officials of the Zionist entity began to voice openly their chagrin and concern, forgetting that they, very recently, announced the launching of an espionage satellite. It also was announced all over the world that the Zionist entity tested a 1,300-km range war missile, whose projectile landed in the Mediterranean. Regardless of what is announced and said here and there—which we do not like, and which, at times, revolts us—we want to assert and warn that any attempt by the Zionist entity to strike against our scientific or military installations will be confronted with a precise [musawwab] reaction, using the means available to us according to the legitimate right to self-defense.

We know if Israel carries out an act of aggression, the United States will not be able to deny the charge of encouraging Israel to carry out such an act. Everyone must know that he who talks about security and stability in the world, and he who wants to stop the race to innovate or possess weapons of destruction, truly must endeavor to achieve security and stability everywhere, especially in our region. The time has gone when the language of aggression and threats alone was capable of drawing the framework and the future of action and objectives in the Arab homeland. O God, be my witness, I have delivered the message.

O great people; O jealous men in the Arab nation; O splendid men in our heroic Armed Forces. Recent world events and developments, which we daily are observing and witnessing, have demonstrated a number of facts in politics and principles that had escaped some's attention. These facts, however, have not been outside of our principles, faith, thinking, and policies. Among these facts, which have been confirmed by developments in the communist world—in addition to other facts which we spoke of at the time—is that the subordinate cannot be independent of the master. The branch cannot be isolated from the stem unless by rebellion. Mutual interdependence among nations, to be fair and correct, must be supported by the balanced forces of those concerned. To enjoy such a description in international politics, the big ones must keep those who surround them and are dependent on them less important than they are. To maintain their international weight, it is the policy of those big ones to reduce others to beings of little importance. Whoever seeks protection from outside his people and nation and does not rely on their resources will be a captive to the changing policies and interests of those who provide him with temporary protection or promise him this protection. Injustice is not a form of power, but is and always has been the worst path to the worst fate.

These facts, which have been corroborated by recent international events and developments, demonstrate the deep and historic vision of the early pioneers of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the July 1968 fighters—the vision of emphasizing independence and reliance on ourselves and our nation. Independence and self-reliance do not contradict the clear vision of openmindedness, interaction, and contact with all that is beneficial and useful in the world.

Therefore the building of a national, trained army that believes in these principles, and the emphasis on the importance of building an independent national military industry have been the most important achievements of the July 1968 revolution and its great march. The Iraqi Army at all times and whenever necessary will remain a shield for the sovereignty and independence of Iraq and the entire Arab nation and homeland.

The year 1990—if it takes its proper, planned course, God willing—will be, in our internal life, the year of maximum interest in the people exercising their responsibilities on the representational and various levels, as well as the government, political, trade union, and professional organizations level.

Some of the committees we formed on 26 February 1989 already have completed their important reports—each committee according to its specialty. Other committees are about to finish the studies and reports assigned to them. This year, God willing, the discussion and attention of the leadership, people, and the party will focus on the new draft constitution law of the country, in a way that will further the common understanding and the belief in its principles and orientations so that, after its endorsement, the laws of economy, social life, cultural affairs, press, and everything related to the topics connected with the people's life and their basic aspirations might be inspired and judged by this constitution.

In conclusion, I beseech God to continue His blessings upon us—goodness, affluence, peace, and continued progress. May God's peace, blessings, and mercy be upon you.

USSR's Arkhipov Arrives for Army Celebrations

JN0401181790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Jan 90

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 4 Jan (INA)—A number of fraternal and friendly delegations have arrived here to participate Saturday in the brave Iraqi Army's 69th anniversary celebrations. [passage omitted]

The Soviet delegation, led by Soviet Deputy Defense Minister General Vladimir Arkhipov, arrived in Baghdad at noon today. In a statement to INA, Gen Arkhipov said he was pleased to visit Iraq and participate with the Iraqi people under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn in the Iraqi Army's 69th anniversary celebrations.

The Soviet delegation was received at the airport by the assistant chief of staff, officers and officials at the Foreign Ministry, and the Soviet charge d'affaires in Baghdad.

'Secret' U.S. Government 'Assurances' Reported

TA0501070490 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 5 Jan 90 pp 1, 5

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer]

[Text] Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein, who recently returned from Washington, brought to Jerusalem a draft letter from Secretary of State Baker to Foreign Minister Arens, outlining U.S. assurances to Israel in anticipation of the meeting with the Palestinians.

The U.S. Administration formulated the document after the talks with Rubinstein.

The five-page document, entitled "The U.S. Draft," was delivered to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and his three fellow members of the "forum of four." The Americans asked the document's content be kept secret.

Here is the first and exclusive report on the document:

—The U.S. secretary of state notes Israel has responded favorably to his five-point plan;

—The United States has made efforts, though at this stage unsuccessfully, to encourage Arab world countries to recognize Israel;

—The United States is working toward getting the UN Security Council resolution that defined Zionism as racism revoked. "Our friends tell us progress on the Palestinian issue will help revoke the resolution;"

—Regarding the resettlement of Arab refugees: If progress is made toward elections in the territories and toward negotiations as a result of the dialogue to be launched in Cairo, we will be able to promote this issue. In any event, this does not involve an investment of U.S. funds;

—All the assurances the United States will give Israel must be in line with the spirit of the five-point plan;

—It is not the aim of the United States, in the current efforts, to force Israel to engage in negotiations with the PLO;

—The United States will not vouch for the Palestinians' conduct or remarks during the meeting;

—In the opening speeches in the Cairo meeting, the parties will be permitted to raise other issues. They will not be obliged to confine themselves merely to election processes;

—With the consent of the parties, the Israeli-Palestinian dialogue will be allowed to proceed in the future in "other ways" as well, not only in Cairo.

Secretary Baker emphasized in the draft he sent to Jerusalem that the assurances to be given Israel must be kept from "the public eye."

"These are the assurances we are prepared to give. The President and I are convinced they can dispel Israel's fears and allow the peace process to advance," concludes Secretary Baker in his draft letter.

In addition to the U.S. draft he carried, the Cabinet secretary summed up his talks with administration leaders in Washington in a document submitted to the "forum of four."

Rubinstein wrote: "The chances for far-reaching improvements (in Baker's draft) are slim."

Following are the main points in the summary submitted by the Cabinet secretary to the "forum of four:"

—The United States has turned down the demand that only residents of the territories be members of the Palestinian delegation to the talks. It insists that two Palestinians who reside outside the territories also be included;

—The United States suggests that the names of the Palestinian delegates appear first in one of the leaflets disseminated by the intifadah leadership in the territories. Rubinstein objected to this idea, arguing that the leaflets are tied to the PLO;

—The United States rejected the demand Rubinstein raised that a time limit be placed on the opening speeches at the dialogue in Cairo and that "their content not be embarrassing" for Israel;

—Rubinstein's interlocutors in the U.S. Administration, as well as the Egyptian ambassador to the United States, refused to furnish Rubinstein with the Egyptian response to the five-point plan. They explained that the response mentions the PLO several times and that submitting the response to Israel might embarrass certain members of the Israeli Cabinet.

The United States currently is awaiting Israel's response to the U.S. draft it received. This emerges from the meeting between the Israeli ambassador in Washington and Richard Haas of the Middle East branch of the National Security Council. The prime minister will soon convene the "forum of four" to work out the reply to the Americans.

The foreign minister's office sees a certain improvement in the Baker document and considers it indicative of a shift toward the assurances Israel had requested. Members of the Prime Minister's Bureau, on the other hand, believe the assurances are unsatisfactory. In the words of a staff member: "These are empty assurances. I would toss the paper back at them." Ministers Rabin and Peres believe there was no need for the assurances at all, and that the five-point plan should have been accepted as is.

Observers in Jerusalem said last night the main security-related clause Israel obtained in the current U.S. draft is the one that says "it is not the aim of the United States, in the current efforts, to force Israel to engage in negotiations with the PLO."

Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, who leaves soon for the United States, will discuss with administration leaders the composition of the Palestinian delegation for talks with Israel.

For the moment, the U.S. Administration has refrained from summoning the Israeli and Egyptian foreign ministers to Washington.

U.S. Demand for Nonresidents in Delegation Denied

TA0501113090 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 5 Jan 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens has denied reports the United States is demanding Israel allow two Palestinians who are not residents of the territories to participate in the talks. We are trying, Arens said, to reach an understanding with the United States regarding the assurances. The foreign minister today toured Alfe Menashe. Our correspondent in the territories 'Ido Shargil accompanied him:

[Begin recording] [Shargil] Alfe Menashe was the site Foreign Ministry personnel chose to take California Senator Wilson, a pro-Israeli Republican, for a tour. Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, who accompanied him, denied reports U.S. Secretary of State Baker is demanding the inclusion of two nonresident Palestinians in the talks.

[Arens] We are maintaining contacts over the assurances. We have not yet finalized the issue, but I hope we will.

[Shargil] Our positions, said Arens, are not far from those of the United States. In the end we will do whatever we deem correct, and the Americans are well aware of that.

[Arens] We are trying to reach an agreement with the United States over the assurances. Later a meeting will be conducted between the three foreign ministers, and then we will see whether it is possible to move forward.

[Shargil] Regarding Minister Weizman's visit to Moscow, Arens said: I have no idea whether he met with PLO men. I hope he learned his lesson, but if he holds such meetings, he will find himself outside the government. [end recording]

Panama Operation Likened to Elephant Crushing Ant

TA0501110890 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 5 Jan 90 p 7

[Commentary by Washington correspondent Yo'el Esteron: "Elephants May Crush Ants Because in This World, Everything Is Relative"]

[Text] An elephant attacked a drugged ant, crushing it with all of its body's weight, but the dastardly ant did not give in easily. It fought bitterly for its life, bit the elephant, hid a little, but in the end grew weary and surrendered. Thus, "The Jungle Book" moral will be as follows: Ants would be well advised not to annoy elephants, because in the final analysis, elephants are larger and stronger (although they sometimes have tactical problems); elephants may (although others may not) crush ants, because everything in the world is relative; and it is better to befriend elephants and shy away from ants, because it is a cruel world. All the grasshoppers in the Middle East who dreamed the elephant would devote itself to a never-ending pursuit of the ant now will know the elephant has no further engagements and it is brimming with self-confidence.

George Bush grinned from ear to ear, as though incapable of controlling his facial muscles, when he announced the elephant's victory. Perhaps that was because the United States never regained the confidence it lost in the jungles of Vietnam. The difference, of course, is the Vietcong enjoyed the backing of two elephants. Noriega was found to be a little Napoleon with no backing. Still, Bush almost got involved in a war of attrition without victors. Now people in Washington say "he had more luck than good sense," which was a statement made about him on previous occasions as well.

Noriega will sting Bush again. This will happen in court, when he tries to prove his innocence. It will happen when Bush is forced to confront several embarrassing episodes—for example, when Noriega's attorneys request permission to peruse secret CIA documents on the ousted dictator's links with Bush, a former director of the CIA. It is just as logical to assume Bush would have preferred a dead Noriega to one in U.S. handcuffs, a living corpse grasping at the fine print of the law to drag the President with him to perdition. But a manacled Noriega undoubtedly is preferable to a guerrilla war in the Panamanian villages.

Meanwhile, until the stench rises from the Miami courthouse—if it actually does—Bush is having a ball, and all the critics of "Operation Just Cause" cannot spoil the the party with their grumblings.

The United States wipes from its mind the thought of those hundreds who were left dead and the thousands who were injured; it chooses to forget the torrents of snide remarks about the military clumsiness, ignores the price tag affixed to the fiasco, and salutes the President's success. This, after all, is the place where the principle "nothing succeeds like success" was born.

Noriega Surrender 'Sanctioned' U.S. 'Invasion'

TA0501091790 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 5 Jan 90 p 6

[Editorial: "Noriega in America's Dock"]

[Text] By leaving the safety of an asylum in the Vatican legation of Panama City and allowing himself to be transported to Miami to stand trial on drug-trafficking charges, Manuel Antonio Noriega retroactively sanctioned the invasion of his country last month by U.S. troops. The main purpose of the invasion, besides the restoration of democracy in Panama, had been seizure of the country's military dictator.

The Vatican was not about to turn Gen. Noriega in to the Americans. But the legation proved not much more comfortable than a prison. And with no third country willing to accept him, the former dictator must have been persuaded, as Panama's archbishop suggested, that his chances of obtaining a fair trial and decent treatment in the U.S. would be far better than in Panama. There, his enemies now far outnumber his well-wishers.

So fair may the trial prove to be, that the punishment which the U.S. could take from it might exceed Noriega's. The ousted ruler's plea of innocence is not likely to cut ice with the court. But his demand for submission of classified information pertaining to the services he had rendered, even as a drug peddler, to the Central Intelligence Agency earlier in the decade bids fair to greatly embarrass his U.S. hosts. Not least because George Bush was the CIA's director during the period in question.

The embarrassment should be lightened if, as a result of Noriega's seizure and trial, the Medellin narcotics cartel were also to lose its clout.

Al-Husayni Interviewed; Sees 'Possibility of War'

TA0501095790 Tel Aviv DAVAR (DEVAR HASHAVU'A supplement) in Hebrew 5 Jan 90 pp 4, 5

[Interview with Faysal al-Husayni, director of the East Jerusalem Institute of Arab Studies, by Avital 'Inbar at Al-Husayni's East Jerusalem residence; date not given]

[Text] ['Inbar] How do you view Eretz Yisra'el in the year 2,000?
[Al-Husayni] If we manage to solve the Palestinian problem and set up a state in the coming 3 or 4 years, then I view both countries as part of a regional common market on the European model, which could lead to a degree of political unity within 10 to 15 years.

['Inbar] Do you really believe a Palestinian state will be set up in the near future?
[Al-Husayni] Yes. The situation in the region and the world is reaching a point that will call for a solution. Events in the Middle East show there is no way to prevent people from saying what they want and to deny them their national rights. Events in Romania gave us more self-confidence and hope, more strength in our struggle.

['Inbar] In your view, is there a majority in Israel that thinks like you?
[Al-Husayni] When the intifadah began, we found it hard to begin to aspire to peace. There were struggles within the movement—and in the heart of each Palestinian—between absolute justice and feasible justice, between our legitimate dream and reality. The struggle has been decided. In the intifadah's 2d year, we struggled to win over international opinion and succeeded. We now can say the intifadah's 3d year will be focused on public opinion in Israel, in which a change already has begun to take place.

['Inbar] What about the leaders?
[Al-Husayni] I do not believe Israel will be able to continue with the Shamir positions and with a government incapable of making decisions. Something has to change, for good or bad: either Shamir and the right wing, or a left-wing government. It is important for us to face a government capable of making decisions—either for war or peace.

['Inbar] Do you foresee a possibility of war?
[Al-Husayni] Yes. That is, should there be a government that announces it rejects everything and tries to defeat us. We will struggle and prove this cannot be done. We have a policy in our struggle in which we make sure there is a low level of violence. We can continue these tactics—without a change in strategy—and succeed. We can live for many years with the intifadah and with hope.

['Inbar] The Egyptian ambassador said 'Arafat is more moderate than you. What is your position toward Israel?
[Al-Husayni] I am struggling for a Palestinian state alongside Israel. In the past I aspired to a Palestinian state in which Muslims and the Jewish minority would have equal rights. I came to realize that although from our viewpoint it was a wonderful dream, Israel views it differently. I have the right to dream, but not to impose my dream on someone else.

['Inbar] In your youth, did you dream about the destruction of Israel?
[Al-Husayni] Yes. I joined the Palestinian army before 1967, waiting for the moment when we would be able to fight and defeat the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and change everything.

['Inbar] To get a state, would you agree to restrictions on its sovereignty: demilitarization, Israeli soldiers along the Jordan River?
[Al-Husayni] We would differentiate between sovereignty, which is the main issue, and the secondary issue: how to ensure the security of my state and the number of my soldiers. I would not need a large army if I had international guarantees, but the presence of a foreign army on my land would be an affront to our sovereignty.

['Inbar] What about the settlements?
[Al-Husayni] Settlers, yes; settlements, no. I struggle against the existence of the refugee camps; the Jews struggled a long time against the ghettos. We will not permit the existence of ghettos among us of any kind.

['Inbar] What about Jerusalem?
[Al-Husayni] I want a united city as the capital of two states, not like present. We will not agree to any other location; neither will the Israelis.

['Inbar] Will a country divided between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip be able economically to exist?
[Al-Husayni] Yes, in a peace scenario, with free movement between the two regions, but not on its own. Can England, France, and the FRG exist without each other?

No. Israel cannot either. There will be a mutual need for cooperation. I believe there will be peace only with open borders.

['Inbar] How will the moderate leadership be able to deal with the rise of extremist Islam, which is taking over Gaza and might get 40 percent of the vote in West Bank elections, as happened in Jordan?
[Al-Husayni] Far less. They are no threat to Palestinian society. Furthermore, there also are moderates in Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. If, for instance, there will be 120 seats in the parliament, they will get about 18.

['Inbar] Can Israel be assured of the Palestinian state's stability, despite all the extremist rival factions?
[Al-Husayni] You also had rival organizations before 1948. A different set of rules came into play afterward. The same also will happen to us. Today, things are determined democratically among us. We do not try to achieve a consensus, but a majority decision. Up to now, we have not been forced to sink vessels belonging to rival factions. Everything is decided by a vote. It happened to other countries in the region, and you know to what I refer.

['Inbar] If we consider the present situation, that is not the case: Hamas is conducting its own intifadah. Is there some level of coordination between the Unified National Command of the Uprising and Hamas?
[Al-Husayni] I was imprisoned and my movements have been restricted, because they believe I am one of those maintaining such coordination with Hamas! If the Israelis believe it and are looking for those involved in coordination, that means it exists. But they were wrong in pointing at me.

['Inbar] Can you confirm there is such coordination?
[Al-Husayni] I believe if a struggle of this kind has been going on for 2 years without clashes...

['Inbar] It is claimed in Israel that the population heeds Hamas out of fear.

['Inbar] It seems to me the PLO's raison d'etre is the struggle rather than independence itself. The present situation suits it, and it is not too keen to take responsibility for managing a state.

[Al-Husayni] That is a mistake. Each Palestinian—no matter where he lives—aspires to the moment when he will have his own country. That also is true of the PLO. The price we are paying for lack of a country is too high. There is pressure from Palestinians, who so far only have donated money while investing their know-how in other countries, to return.
[Al-Husayni] No, out of a desire for unity. The people are doing many things to maintain unity, and that is part of the coordination.

['Inbar] Is 'Arafat the type of leader who can run a state?
[Al-Husayni] Why not? He is highly qualified.

['Inbar] Do you know him well?
[Al-Husayni] From the age of 9.

['Inbar] Have you met with him lately?
[Al-Husayni] That is forbidden!

['Inbar] Do you have a gentlemen's agreement with the military government that permits you to operate within certain limits?
[Al-Husayni] Not at all.

['Inbar] It has been claimed you were arrested because you are 'Arafat's unofficial representative. If that is true why, in your opinion, were you released and permitted to go on with your activities?
[Al-Husayni] I only represent the Palestinian position, Palestinian views, but I have ties with the organizational framework. The Israelis realized they cannot keep somebody in jail because of his thoughts. My thoughts are the same as those of all Palestinians, and jailing me will not change anything.

['Inbar] You are after all not a philosopher; you were imprisoned for your actions.
[Al-Husayni] If there is proof I am a member of the organization, why was I not put on trial? There is no point in trying to analyze why the occupation acted this way or that. It is beyond reason. The occupation is bad, and all its actions are bad.

['Inbar] Personally, do you view your release from jail as a positive act?
[Al-Husayni] Yes, but I am not allowed to move about.

['Inbar] Other people would have been imprisoned for acts you have committed, which were followed by restriction of your movements. You and some of your friends have some sort of an immunity. Why is that?
[Al-Husayni] I do not believe anyone has immunity. I provide myself with immunity by not operating outside the law. You do, however, have a point there. Let me tell you how it started. When the intifadah reached a certain level, people from inside and outside began telling Israel: You must talk to the Palestinians. Israel replied it will not talk to the PLO, only to local leaders. Then it was asked: So why are they in prison? Israel released them, hoping they would provide an alternative to Tunis. Nonetheless, we here are able to provide Israel—excuse me, Palestine—with new fighters, dozens of martyrs, dozens of Nelson Mandelas. You will find no quislings among us. If the State of Israel would be willing to talk to us as the part of the Palestinian nation led by the PLO, we could reach many agreements. If they insist on solving only the local problems and separating us from our brothers on the outside, they will achieve nothing.

['Inbar] Why quislings? You are the local leadership of a local struggle.
[Al-Husayni] We are one people. I live in Tunis. I live in Beirut. The Lebanon war was not only 'Arafat's; it was mine as well. I fought at Tall al-Za'tar, and I can tell you 'Arafat has blocked roads in Gaza and thrown stones in Jerusalem.

['Inbar] At the beginning of the intifadah you said: "If 'Arafat does not join us, we will overthrow him."

[Al-Husayni] No. He is the elected president of the PLO and the Palestinians. Nothing can be done without him. Only the Palestinian National Council can replace a leader.

['Inbar] Do you get instructions from 'Arafat?
[Al-Husayni] You seem to fail to understand the nature of the tie. The Israelis are very careful about it. They constantly inject new blood into the Palestinian network on the outside. They have been deporting local leaders for the past 22 years. Those deportees, who are very familiar with the situation here, find their place among the leadership there. When the locals look at the outside, they see their own flesh and blood. The same way of thinking exists here and there. It all is a matter of assigning posts. I, for example, talk to the press....

['Inbar] Suppose there is peace, and there is a new job allocation. What will your job be in this newly founded Palestinian body?
[Al-Husayni] Before the elections, I will be one of those who organizes a political infrastructure. But I can tell you right now: The leaders who will come from abroad will be the symbol of the whole Palestinian nation.

['Inbar] Are you in a position to become a minister?
[Al-Husayni] I would not want to become a minister. It is not always the case one who has talent as a field commander also is suitable to direct and carry out administrative tasks. He might destroy his own reputation.

['Inbar] You have said 1990 will be the year of the struggle for Israeli public opinion. Whose order was that?
[Al-Husayni] We have something you could call a think tank. We convene it all the time and everywhere. People from across the political spectrum convene and discuss everything. I sit here and in other locations with physicians, farmers, and engineers, and so do others. The good ideas then are presented by me and others in various forums, such as news conferences. They are picked up by think tanks abroad, and the people there are good listeners. They, in turn, discuss those ideas, introduce certain changes, and come out with crystallized ideas.

['Inbar] Does this not constitute a committee coordinating the various factions?
[Al-Husayni] No. This is not allowed.

['Inbar] Let us assume you are not a member of such a body. Do you think one exists?
[Al-Husayni] I believe it does, because joint leaflets have been issued during the past 2 years.

['Inbar] Are the leaflets coordinated with Tunisia through fax machines, such as the one I saw in the other room?
[Al-Husayni] There are fax machines everywhere. I do not think we need coordination. The relations are those of a general staff and field headquarters. They deal with the strategic aspect, while we handle the tactics.

['Inbar] Are you the field commander?
[Al-Husayni] Had I been one, I would not have the time for this lengthy interview... No, I am the a person who is best able to analyze the Palestinian stand and demands.

['Inbar] What has the intifadah constructed in Palestinian society?
[Al-Husayni] Self-confidence and a certain infrastructure: we are increasingly providing for our needs ourselves. For example, we meet 45 percent of the demand for poultry, compared with 15 percent before. Furthermore, we have the institutions of a state-to-be, despite the fact Ansar 4 is full of people who could be officials and despite the fact Israel harasses this system daily, because although its activities are legal, it is considered illegal.

['Inbar] I will not ask you why the intifadah cruelly eliminates Palestinians; I know what your answer will be...
[Al-Husayni] Please ask. I will answer.

['Inbar] OK. That youth from Nabulus, the member of the Red Eagle, who said on television that he "enjoys killing people with his bare hands..."
[Al-Husayni] When I was in Nahhalin I saw—and not only I—an Israeli soldier whose helmet read: "Born to kill kids." This is what he did, and he enjoyed it. In the current state of affairs, you witness many such phenomena. We had a bitter experience in 1937. That is why in 1967 the leadership decided not to eliminate collaborators. The number of collaborators killed between 1967 and 1987 amounts to zero. This policy was maintained throughout the intifadah as well. During the 1st year we called on them to repent and forgave them. In the second quarter of the 2d year, however, the authorities began employing a new policy.

First, they collected all the collaborators who were expelled by the local population, trained and armed them, and forced them back on the local residents. Second, they pressured and threatened those who used to be collaborators to resume activity. Third, they stopped detaining the wanted men and started to kill them. The residents realized most of those killed in demonstrations during the past 6 months were wanted men. On rooftops in Ramallah and elsewhere, you can see soldiers with binoculars firing at targets. The residents began to see the collaborators not only as people who might get them arrested, but as men who put them in mortal danger. They realized expelling a collaborator from his village was not enough, because he would return armed. That is why, for the past 6 months, they have been killing them.

['Inbar] Do you justify that?
[Al-Husayni] No, I merely analyze the situation.

['Inbar] Why do you not justify it, if this is the situation?
[Al-Husayni] Because it should go through several phases—an inquiry, a trial—yet how can this be done in the current state of affairs? Mistakes are made everywhere around the world. History shows us collaborators always are being killed. Look at what happened to your police informers. One last point: It would be unfair to

say the Palestinians killed 125 in the past 6 months. They killed 160 people in the past 22 years.

['Inbar] Is killing collaborators part of what you call "building self-confidence?"
[Al-Husayni] Just the opposite. Our self-confidence would have increased had we been able to control them and tell them: We know of you; you had better stay put. Usually, we do not succeed.

['Inbar] Are you personally afraid of assassination?
[Al-Husayni] They told me to be careful, to take precautions, not to repeat mistakes made by Bassam al-Shak'ah and others. Kahane's men came to my house and chanted: "Remember al-Shak'ah..."

['Inbar] I speak of Palestinian extremists.
[Al-Husayni] There are no political assassinations in our tradition.

['Inbar] How about President al-Sadat?
[Al-Husayni] I am talking about the situation here.

['Inbar] Under what circumstances will the political level stop the intifadah?
[Al-Husayni] The intifadah is not just throwing stones, blocking roads, and staging strikes. It also is the construction of an internal infrastructure. This will go on. As for the violence, it all depends on the political process. If you take small steps, so will we; if you take big steps, we will follow.

['Inbar] Do you believe the political level still can issue an instruction to stop the intifadah and be heeded?
[Al-Husayni] The people have a right to examine the correctness of the demands issued by the leadership. The leadership will not demand the intifadah stop if no real progress is made. The order will be heeded because the leadership is part of the nation.

['Inbar] Who will be able to govern the violent groups that will get out of control?
[Al-Husayni] The population, the local popular committees will. The leadership naturally will not stop the intifadah for Israel's benefit, but for the benefit of my people. The situation will look different: Those in control of the situation no longer will be the IDF or the Shin Bet. Those who will be asked to stop the intifadah will have enough power to make sure it stops.

['Inbar] Will you be a member of the Palestinian delegation to the Cairo meeting?
[Al-Husayni] I do not know. The PLO has not yet announced the nominations.

['Inbar] Did you not suggest any names to them?
[Al-Husayni] If I do, it will not be through you.

['Inbar] Do you believe elections will be conducted?
[Al-Husayni] Not based on the Shamir initiative.

['Inbar] How will the 3d year of the intifadah look if the peace process does not move forward?
[Al-Husayni] In the foreseeable future, I see the same tactics, the same strategy, and no use of firearms.

['Inbar] Under no circumstances whatsoever?
[Al-Husayni] In this world, there is no such thing.

3-Month Travel Ban Imposed on Al-Husayni

TA0501094690 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 5 Jan 90

[Text] Interior Minister Arye Der'i this morning issued an injunction banning Faysal al-Husayni, director of the East Jerusalem Institute of Arab Studies, from leaving the country. Al-Husayni is considered the most senior Palestinian figure in the territories. The injunction forbids him leaving the country for 3 months, from 3 January through 2 April 1990.

An ITIM correspondent reports Shin Bet personnel arrived at Faysal al-Husayni's residence in East Jerusalem and handed the injunction to his wife. The ITIM correspondent recalls the security forces have restricted Al-Husayni's movements in and out of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza for 6 months because of what they call subversive hostile activity.

The ITIM correspondent points out that for a long period of time, Faysal al-Husayni had been forbidden to travel overseas. Only after a meeting with Shmu'el Goren, the coordinator of government activities in the territories, at Ashmoret jail more than a year ago did the security forces permit him to leave the country.

Weizman Goes to USSR; No 'Political' Meetings

TA0401104290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 4 Jan 90

[Text] Minister 'Ezer Weizman has left Vienna en route to Moscow. This evening he will attend the gala performance of Habima, the national theater. Our correspondent Meron Tzur reports that this morning Minister Weizman conferred with the Austrian interior minister, who asked him about the possibility of flying Soviet immigrants through Vienna. Weizman explained to his host Israel prefers direct flights from Moscow.

Arye Levin, who heads the Israeli representation in Moscow, said Minister Weizman's schedule does not include any political meetings, and he will accompany the minister to all his meetings, just as he does with all visiting Israeli ministers.

Denies Plan To Meet Gorbachev

TA0301170090 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 3 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Minister 'Ezer Weizman, who left for Moscow, said he would not be meeting with President Gorbachev, thereby denying remarks by Attorney Leon Charney. Amir Fink heard Minister Weizman at Ben-Gurion Airport:

Minister Weizman arrived at the airport fed up with battling the media. I cannot go on like this, he said, but knows the media will not leave him alone, even in the USSR. It seems during the week he will spend there, he will be accompanied all the time by the media. We tried to find out Minister Weizman's plans in the USSR in view of Leon Charney's remarks he is going to meet Gorbachev.

[Begin recording] [Fink] Minister Weizman, Leon Charney was quoted this morning as saying...

[Weizman, interrupting] Let us stop all this. Leon Charney is my friend, he has nothing to do with my visit. He sometimes likes to create a stir. He is a nice fellow and plumpish. The entire report is absolute rubbish.

[Fink] Does that mean he does not know what he is talking about?

[Weizman] Of course not.

[Fink] So you are not going to meet Gorbachev.

[Weizman] I told you I have a fixed itinerary. Drop the whole thing. If Leon said what he is reported to have said, he was talking nonsense. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Arens Against Visit

TA0301114590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 3 Jan 90

[Text] A Voice of Israel reporter says that in a telephone poll of Cabinet ministers yesterday, Foreign Minister Arens opposed the planned visit of 'Ezer Weizman to the Soviet Union. Arens expressed the view that no Israeli Cabinet minister should go to the USSR without an official government invitation.

Weizman is due to leave shortly for Vienna, where he is expected to get a visa for his trip to Moscow.

Vorontsov Willing To Meet

TA0401190790 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 4 Jan 90

[Report by special correspondent in Moscow Yig'al Rom]

[Excerpts] 'Ezer Weizman has arrived in Moscow, where he was met by the Academy of Sciences USSR secretary general [title as heard]. Tomorrow he is scheduled to meet with the president of the academy—an important meeting with a person whose position is considered parallel to that of a minister. After this meeting, Weizman will visit the Space Research Institute and the World Economics and International Relations Institute.

Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov—an important personality—has expressed his willingness to meet with Minister Weizman. If this encounter occurs, it certainly will be the visit's crowning achievement.

Weizman's first event here is the premiere of the Habima national theater in Moscow.

[Begin recording] [Weizman] I will deal with academic issues. I will meet with anyone who invites me.

[Rom] The deputy foreign minister, for instance?

[Weizman] I do not know. I do not know what the plans are. I have a written schedule, and if matters develop during my stay, I will consider them. In any event, we came here to discuss sciences; I have been invited by the academy. I am convinced this is one of the ways to breach [as heard] a path between us and this great and interesting country with which a considerable part of Jews has profound historic ties. [passage omitted]

[Rom] What about the controversy in Israel? You started this week by being dismissed from the Cabinet and are concluding it with a visit to the Soviet Union.

[Weizman] Right. That means the controversy must have reached its end. I said goodbye to the prime minister and here I am. [end recording]

Effect of Weizman Affair on Peace Process Viewed

TA0401155990 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 4 Jan 90 p 1

[Editorial: "What Was the Reason for All This Shamirian 'Drama' in the First Place?"]

[Text] After the government crisis in Israel ended with 'Ezer Weizman losing his seat in the Inner Cabinet, one can ask, even though with complete irony, whether the aim of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in dismissing Minister of Science and Technology Weizman—and in describing him immediately throughout the Israeli news media as "a traitor," and then retreating from all this in just 48 hours—merely was the resignation of this "dovish" Alignment minister from his "prestigious" post as a member of the Inner Cabinet after only 18 months while remaining a full member of the present government.

This "extremely ingenious" goal does not justify all the stormy and widespread uproar that accompanied the "grave" incident which, according to Israeli data, produced this uproar and fanned it over the last 2 days. Thus, a serious question arises about Shamir's hints and signals in the hasty fabrication of this event and its appendages.

If Israeli newspapers embarked immediately on following the "loser and winner" within the Israeli Government from this entire "process," the question as far as we are concerned is what effect this event will have on the peace process in the region. We believe Shamir, specifically in this context, wanted through his "drama" to send

a message to whom it may concern that he is "in control" and is the "only address" for the proposed negotiations! If this assessment is correct, then Shamir now will be subjecting himself to further pressures because the peace process never will stop.

Washington, in particular, is getting ready to host in approximately 2 weeks the meeting between its Secretary of State James Baker and the Egyptian and Israeli foreign ministers, 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid and Moshe Arens. Washington is called upon to decisively follow up this matter. It is inadmissible for Shamir to "extend" the date of this meeting to next April, as is being said, so he would be able to exploit a certain U.S. administrative situation that would cause a delay of several months in this followup. This will mean reinforcing the game of gaining time, which will drive the entire region toward serious dangers that exceed the uproar of the dismissal or resignation of this or that minister in the Israeli Government.

Sharon Accuses Shamir of 'Legitimizing' the PLO

TA0401162790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 4 Jan 90

[Text] Minister Ari'el Sharon accused the prime minister of legitimizing the PLO, of making wrong decisions, and being incapable of withstanding pressures. Minister Sharon said at a meeting of the constraints ministers, that his colleagues decided to convene the Likud Central Committee as quickly as possible to discuss political issues on the agenda, as well as economic and social matters.

Our party affairs correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Minister David Levi also sharply attacked Mr Shamir and said the Likud sustained a grave blow in the Weizman affair. He said the government is not functioning in any field of operation.

Amnesty International 'Execution' Charges Rejected

TA0301054490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 3 Jan 90

[Excerpts] Amnesty International today accused Israel of condoning and encouraging extrajudicial executions of Palestinians in order to help control the intifadah. In particular, it suggested guidelines issued to Israeli forces were often disregarded. [passage omitted]

Here in Jerusalem a Foreign Ministry spokesman dismissed the report as nonsense and charged that the accusations made were outrageous. In London, the Israeli Embassy said the report was regrettable, and accused Amnesty of errors of facts.

Shamir Levels 'Harsh Criticism'

TA0401153390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 4 Jan 90

[Text] The prime minister has directed harsh criticism at the Amnesty [International] report that charged Israel with encouraging illegal killing of Palestinians. Mr Shamir stated that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the security forces are doing their best to prevent fatalities.

In a meeting with a delegation of UK Labor-affiliated Parliament members, Mr Shamir said the IDF must defend itself and wage a struggle against violence with hardly any use of firearms.

The prime minister added the PLO makes a point of constantly stating it will not cease its terrorist activities, even if negotiations for democratic elections are launched. This declaration reflects the organization's true intentions toward the peace initiative.

'Surprising' Data on Voters in PLO-Related Poll

TA0301150490 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 3 Jan 90 p 2

[Report by 'Anat Avni'eli]

[Text] Some 50 percent of the Jewish citizens of Israel believe Israel eventually will conduct negotiations with the PLO, while 37 percent think the opposite. These are the findings of a poll conducted by Dr Avraham Diskin from the Hebrew University's political sciences department.

The poll, conducted at the beginning of December, included 1,000 interviewees and represented the urban Jewish population.

In reply to the question "Do you believe we eventually will have to negotiate with the PLO?" 15 percent replied "absolutely yes;" the same percent replied "absolutely not." Some 35 percent replied in the affirmative, while 22 percent gave a negative reply. The reaction of 12 percent was "maybe."

Another interesting finding is the agreement to negotiations with the PLO found among 24 percent of the Likud voters. The supporters of the Likud's satellite right-wing parties—Tehiya, Tzomet, and Moledet—were even more surprising: 22 percent said yes; 20 percent maybe; 21 percent were against; and 37 percent absolutely against.

The stance of 28 percent of the religious parties' voters—Agudat Yisra'el, SHAS [Torah-Observing Sephardim], Degel Hatora and NRP [National Religious Party]—regarding negotiations with the PLO was favorable. The rate of support among the voters of the Alignment Party, whose official stand rejects negotiations with the PLO, was: 26 percent were absolutely in favor; 50 percent were in favor; 8 percent had no opinion; 12 percent were against; and only 3 percent were absolutely against. The supporters of CRM [Citizens Rights Movement], Shinuy, and MAPAM [United Workers Party] presented a similar profile: 76 percent in favor.

Some of the polled citizens supported negotiations with the PLO while believing, at the same time, that Arabs' right to vote in the Knesset elections should be annulled. The total of 45 percent were in favor of canceling Israeli Arabs' voting rights, while 45 percent were against.

Official Statement on Border Incident Issued

JN0401184490 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1816 GMT 4 Jan 90

[Text] An official source today made the following statement:

At approximately 0745 today, Israeli forces opened fire on two farmers of al-Shunah al-Shamaliyah, who happened to be at the edge of the river in that region. On hearing the sound of gunfire, patrols of the Jordanian Armed Forces went to the scene and found neither of the two farmers had come to any harm and neither was armed or sought to cross the river.

King To Attend Iraqi Anniversary, Meet Saddam

JN0501074590 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 5 Jan 90 p 1

[Text] AL-DUSTUR has learned His Majesty King Husayn will leave for Baghdad within the next 48 hours to meet with His Excellency Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

His majesty and President Saddam will discuss the latest developments in Arab and international spheres, and also will talk about enhancing the relations of cooperation between the two countries.

His majesty also will participate in the celebrations of fraternal Iraq on the heroic Iraqi Army's 69th anniversary, and attend the grand military parade marking the occasion.

King Meets Christian Figures, Stresses Unity

JN0301190590 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 3 Jan 90

[Excerpts] His Majesty King Husayn received at the Royal Hashemite Court at noon today His Beatitude Greek Orthodox Patriarch Theodorus I, His Beatitude Roman Catholic Patriarch Michel Sabbah, His Beatitude Armenian Orthodox Patriarch (Yugshe Dardarian), Custodian of the Holy Lands His Beatitude (Carlo Chekotelli), and Msgr Dr Ra'uf Najjar, who were accompanied by a high-level delegation of Christian religious men. His Beatitude Greek Orthodox Patriarch Theodorus I extended congratulations to his majesty on the new year and relayed to him the sincerest wishes of the Christian sects on this occasion. He praised the success of the democratic experience launched by his majesty, as well as Jordan's profound, comprehensive adoption of this new distinguished stage. [passage omitted]

His majesty welcomed the patriarchs in his house, the house of all Jordanians. He said: I am extremely happy to meet with you, and I am proud of our links and of what we have inherited from our fathers and grandfathers; namely, our unity, cohesion, and constant stands in defending our Arab rights in Jerusalem, as we are one Arab family.

His majesty said: We wish our democratic experience full success and hope for everyone's full participation. He added: We are taking practical steps to formulate a national charter that safeguards our national unity, the strength of this country, and our comprehensive joint action for the sake of our future. He said man is the ultimate objective and our national unity always will be exemplary. His majesty stressed national unity, which was and will continue to be the most precious thing he and all of us—Jordanians and Palestinians, Muslims and Christians—care about. He said this has been and will continue to be our path.

His majesty the king expressed hopes a just peace will be established in our region and rights restored to their rightful owners. He affirmed we live with all our hearts and minds with the kinfolk in the occupied territory and will continue to do so according to the trust we carry and the honor of the mission to which we have devoted ourselves.

U.S. Official Received by King, Army Chief

JN0401182090 Amman Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 4 Jan 90

[Text] His majesty the king received at the Royal Court visiting U.S. Defense Under Secretary for Political Affairs Mr Paul Wolfowitz.

Mr Wolfowitz, on a Middle East tour, said he came to listen to the opinions of his majesty on the Middle East crisis and efforts to reach a peaceful solution.

His majesty called for greater attention to the Middle East crisis and further efforts for a just and lasting peace, for a just and peaceful end to the problem. His majesty underlined the need for convening an international peace conference involving all parties to the conflict. His majesty also warned of the dangers of not transforming the current cease-fire between Iraq and Iran into permanent peace.

The audience was attended by the Royal Court chief, the Armed Forces chief of staff, and the U.S. ambassador in Amman.

In a separate meeting, the Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu-Talib and the U.S. defense under secretary discussed aspects of cooperation between the two countries.

Meets With Prime Minister

JN0401123990 Amman Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 4 Jan 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Mudar Badran, received at his office this morning the U.S. deputy defense secretary, Paul Wolfowitz. Discussion at the meeting dealt with the aspects of existing cooperation between Jordan and the United States.

The meeting was attended by the U.S. ambassador in Amman and the delegation accompanying the American official.

Badran on Need To Cooperate With Legislature

JN0401182290 Amman Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 4 Jan 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Mudar Badran, has said that the government will continue to cooperate with the legislative branch of government with a view to shouldering its responsibilities and discharging its duties in an honorable and straightforward fashion. He said the government's objective is to make this cherished country progress under the leadership of his majesty the king so it could become an example to be followed by other countries.

The prime minister made the remarks when he received at his office this morning the delegations representing tribal dignitaries, refugee camps, and private institutions in the country.

The delegations congratulated the prime minister on the royal confidence in his person and on the vote of confidence the government won at the House of Representatives. They said they appreciated the constructive approach followed by the government when its policy statement was debated at the House. They also said they appreciated the government's keenness to make the country's democratic process succeed.

Columnist Criticizes USAID Activity in Kingdom

JN0501083890 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 5 Jan 90 p 14

["Highlights" column by Dr Fahd al-Fanik: "U.S. Assistance To Subsidize Services"]

[Text] It is no secret the U.S. Administration is against the policy of interference in world markets, especially through direct financial aid to affect prices and create an imbalance. We believe this policy has its justification in the theory of a free market economy.

But USAID spends large amounts of money doing exactly the opposite. It furnishes financial aid to a U.S. administrative consultations firm, MMIS [expansion unknown], that operates in Amman to help Jordanian industrial companies. Thus, USAID allows the firm to obtain consulting work in an unfair manner for the following reasons:

1. USAID pays almost half of the consultation fees, while the company benefiting from the service pays the other half. Thus, the U.S. firm wins double the market price that achieves a balance between supply and demand.
2. The U.S. firm is competing with other local, Arab, and foreign companies in an unfair manner. It can accept half the price as long as USAID pays the other; in other words, there is a dumping process that must end.
3. The U.S. firm pays high wages to its employees, and local companies cannot match these wages. It makes very high profits without paying income tax, although the income is made in Jordan.
4. The money paid by USAID to assist the U.S. consultation company is considered as U.S. aid to Jordan, although it is direct aid to an American company. This makes it clear most U.S. assistance to Jordan is spent on U.S. companies and does not enter Jordan; most of it goes to experts' reports that are kept on the shelf.

USAID Director Mr Lewis Reade explains the policy of assistance and interference in the Jordanian market, which the agency practices against its declared policy, by saying the subsidy is aimed at serving beneficiary Jordanian industrial companies. He adds the 50 percent subsidy gradually will be decreased until it disappears, and that the American taxpayer is the one who pays the difference.

But we think the Ministry of Supply has similar, perhaps stronger and more convincing, excuses to pursue a policy of subsidy. Why, then, should the subsidy of consumer commodities be called interference while the subsidy of a U.S. firm's services sold in Jordan should not?

Subsidizing the sales and services of a U.S. firm in the Jordanian market is in itself a bad and unfair practice; what if the subsidy is made up of funds earmarked for financial assistance to Jordan?

Al-Hirawi Arrives in Beirut From Ablah

NC0501085790 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in English 0830 GMT 5 Jan 90

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi arrived at 1000 this morning in West Beirut coming from the Lebanese Army barracks at Ablah in al-Biqa' where he has been staying ever since his election. Al-Hirawi will be preparing for the traditional New Year's ceremony greetings by the foreign diplomatic corps. Yesterday, informed sources quoted President al-Hirawi as saying he intends making an Arab nation tour shortly to include Syria, Saudi Arabia, Algeria, and Morocco.

For his part, Dr al-Huss is scheduled to receive the Papal Nuncio Pablo Puente who is to present a copy of his credentials as a prelude to their presentation to President al-Hirawi.

'Awn Comments on Vatican Credential Presentation

NC0501084290 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 5 Jan 90

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn has refused to comment on Papal Nuncio Pablo Puente's decision to present a copy of his credentials to Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss before it actually happens. He told AL-BAYRAQ newspaper, however, that if he does decide to do this, he can work as a papal nuncio with Al-Huss.

Asked about the two messages Prime Minister al-Huss sent to the U.S. and French foreign ministers asking for their assistance to help his government gain access to the funds, he said: Tell him that I will lay my hands on his neck.

Al-Huss Receives Copy of Credentials

NC0501105490 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 5 Jan 90

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi is scheduled to receive Papal Nuncio Pablo Puente's credentials tomorrow. Puente presented a copy of his credentials to Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr Salim al-Huss today.

It has officially been decided that President al-Hirawi will receive members of the diplomatic corps accredited to Lebanon at 1000 on Monday.

'Awn Orders Diplomats Abroad To Stay at Posts

NC0501073390 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 5 Jan 90

[Text] General Michel 'Awn has issued a directive to diplomats abroad telling them to stay at their posts and to disregard any orders which have been issued or might be issued by any other group which claims it is legitimate. The directive points out that the foreign minister will shortly make available the results of the legal efforts made by the competent international quarters in this regard.

Shiite Council Appeals to Iran on Clashes

NC0401185990 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 4 Jan 90

[Text] The clashes between the warring fighters in Iqlim al-Tuffah eased significantly this evening.

According to the latest reports we received, violent clashes took place between Amal and Hizballah fighters this afternoon. The goal of the clashes was to capture the al-Buhayri hill near the town of Kafr Hatta. It has been reported that explosions and artillery shelling were clearly heard in the city of Sidon this evening, despite the fact that both sides had declared their acceptance of the cease-fire. More than 70 persons have been killed and 270 wounded in these regrettable clashes.

Meanwhile, the Higher Islamic Shiite Council's general shari'a committee met in Tyre today and issued a statement in which the committee emphasized that fighting between Amal and Hizballah is categorically forbidden under shari'a. It called for an immediate cease-fire, the withdrawal of two parties to the positions they held before the clashes started, and a return to the Damascus agreement in order to defend Lebanon's interests by not allowing its villages to become weapons depots and bases for gunmen.

The statement added: The conferees sent an urgent cable to the leadership of the Islamic Republic of Iran, particularly Ayatollah Khamene'i, the guide of the Islamic revolution, calling for it to intervene urgently and exert pressure on the party that has entered the villages in Iqlim al-Tuffah to withdraw. We are aware that the Iranian leadership is capable of exerting pressure and influencing all parties.

The general shari'a committee (?praised) the kinfolk and tribes in the al-Biqa' for the frank statement they issued calling for an end to the internal fighting and to the aggression against the southern area.

The general shari'a committee also adopted several important decisions which will be announced later if deemed necessary.

During the meeting, a delegation representing all villages in Iqlim al-Tuffah arrived at the Islamic Studies Institute in Tyre. The delegation briefed the conferees on the tragic situation the people of these villages are experiencing. The delegation members called on the conferees to exert direct pressure on all the parties to make them withdraw their fighters from the area. They also called on the Lebanese state, through the general shari'a committee, to deploy the army in al-Biqa' expeditiously to protect life and property.

Birri Vows To Honor Cease-Fire in Iqlim al-Tuffah

NC0401180090 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 4 Jan 90

[Text] During the funeral of martyr Abu-Jamal, the Amal Movement's military official in the south, which

took place today, Amal Movement leader Minister Nabih Birri declared that he will abide by the ruling issued by Ayatollah Khamene'i, calling for a cease-fire and a return to the situation that existed before the clashes between Amal and Hizballah. Minister Birri expressed the hope that the other party would abide by this ruling.

It is worth noting that Minister Birri had earlier received a letter from Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution in Iran.

Fighting Between Amal, Hizballah Continues

Hizballah Advances on Kafr Hatta

NC0501080290 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 5 Jan 90

[Text] Intermittent clashes between Amal and Hizballah gunmen are continuing on the Kafr Milki, Jarju', Kafr Hatta, and al-Buhayrah hill in Iqlim al-Tuffah combat lines.

Amal Movement's information office has denied that Hizballah made any advance in the direction of Kafr Hatta yesterday. However, AFP reported last night that Hizballah has made a noticeable advance of several hundred meters in the direction of Kafr Hata township, which is under Amal's control.

Amal Foils Hizballah Attack

NC0501105190 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 5 Jan 90

[Text] Intermittent clashes are continuing on the Kafr Hatta, Kafr Milki, and Jba' combat lines between Amal Movement and Hizballah positions. An Amal Movement security source said that Hizballah groups launched an attack on the Jarju' front at dawn today. The movement's fighters checked and foiled the attack, inflicting a number of casualties among the attackers. Hizballah sources noted that a number of villages in Iqlim al-Tuffah came under intermittent artillery fire.

Amal Captures 6 'Agents'

NC0401152590 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 4 Jan 90

[Text] The Amal Movement announced today that it captured six agents in the Dayr Siryan-al-Tayyibah area while it was carrying out an operation in the border strip 2 days ago. The captured agents are Husayn 'Abdallah Ni'mah, 20; Husayn 'Ali Ni'mah, 19; Nizar 'Ali Ibrahim 'Abbas, 18; 'Abbas Hasan Mistrah, 17; Karam 'Abd-al-Husayn Arslan, 17; and Bassam 'Ali Nakhlah, 15.

French Magazine Exposes 'Awn Bank Accounts

NC0301102990 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 3 Jan 90

[Text] Today's edition of the French weekly magazine LE CANARD ENCHAINE discloses that Michel 'Awn has over $15 million in two personal accounts in a French bank. According to AFP, the magazine is publishing a photocopy of a bank statement in 'Awn's name indicating that he has two accounts in the international agency of Paris National Bank. One of these is a current account with a balance of $500,000; the second is a savings account with a balance of $14,736,623.85.

The magazine reveals that 'Awn's wife can also withdraw from these accounts. The monthly interests on these accounts amount to approximately $100,000. The Paris National Bank has declined comment on the news on grounds of depositors' privacy.

According to LE CANARD ENCHAINE, Michel 'Awn has not denied the news, but said: You have violated banking regulations, and I do not wish to comment for this is a personal secret. All I wish to say is that this money is to be used for defense.

'Awn To Close Accounts

NC0301114690 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1030 GMT 3 Jan 90

[Text] General Michel 'Awn has acknowledged the information about his having $15 million in bank accounts in France. He said that this amount will be used only for defense. In radio interviews braodcast in France, 'Awn said that these accounts are not secret because they exist not only in France but also in American and Lebanese banks. He said: These accounts are open to donations, and I can draw the necessary funds when the need arises to solve my financial crises because I have not been receiving funds for the army from the Central Bank for 15 months now.

Expressing disgust at the leaking of the reports on his accounts, 'Awn emphasized that he will close his accounts and withdraw the funds deposited in France.

'Awn To Take Legal Action

NC0401182890 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 4 Jan 90

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn has instructed a French lawyer and a Lebanese law office operating in Paris to lodge a complaint against the two French banks which leaked information about his bank accounts, estimated at $15 million.

Gen 'Awn told AFP that if he had wanted to have a personal account, he would have chosen a country that observes strict banking secrecy. He pointed out that it was better to keep his accounts far away from the government appointed by the Syrians, so that it cannot expropriate these funds. He said he reserves the right to

sue the magazine LE CANARD ENCHAINE, and declared that Lebanese Government attorneys are considering beginning appropriate legal proceedings.

Government Taking Measures

NC0401133890 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 4 Jan 90

[Text] 'Awn's financial scandal continues to evolve and expose as false 'Awn's claims he is hiding behind in order to continue his rebellion. Economic sources did not rule out the possible involvement of military groups close to the former army commander in similar financial scandals. These sources expect the government to take judicial measures within the next few days to safeguard the state's rights and monies.

Justice and Information Minister Edmond Rizq last night held a long meeting with Defense Minister Dr Albert Mansur. Dr Wajih Khatir, the director general of the Justice Ministry, and a number of public prosecution judges attended part of the meeting. Minister Rizq received two telephone calls from the president of the Republic and the prime minister. He also contacted Lebanese Ambassador in Paris Fu'ad al-Turk. Informed sources said this meeting was devoted to discussing the urgent steps that should be taken to confiscate the funds deposited in the name of 'Awn and his wife in French banks because they are state funds.

Following a series of consultations among government officials and ministers, the Foreign Ministry sent instructions to Ambassador Fu'ad al-Turk to appoint a French lawyer and take all the necessary measures to safeguard the rights of the Lebanese state and treasury with regard to the funds which 'Awn is keeping in French banks in his own name or jointly with others.

Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has sent a message to French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas requesting his assistance to regain the Lebanese state's rights to the [word indistinct] funds. Prime Minister al-Huss sent a similar message to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker urging him to assist in ending the abnormal situation in the country and in reclaiming any public funds which may have been deposited in U.S. banks by the former army commander.

'Awn on Bayt Miri Attack, French Bank Account

NC0301152890 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 3 Jan 90

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn held a news conference in B'abda Palace shortly before noon today. He replied to several questions, particularly on the infiltration that was carried out last night from Qurtada into a military zone in the Bayt Miri area. He responded to reports in a French newspaper on donations of money deposited in a French bank, and he also replied to a question on the outcome of his meeting last night with Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja'.

[Begin recording] ['Awn] Preliminary investigations indicate that last night's operation was an infiltration attempt on the part of the opposite side against a small guardpost. It was more of an assassination attempt than a military operation. It had a specific purpose. It was a sudden hit and run attack. The post is not a military defense center. It is more like a guardpost outside a residence.

[Unidentified correspondent] [Question indistinct]

['Awn] [Passage indistinct] They are now searching the area for any wounded persons.

[Correspondent] Do you think the incident will have any repercussions?

['Awn] No, no. It will not have any repercussions. We must be cautious, because infiltration is possible. Such operations usually have better luck on the first attempt than on the second.

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct] AFP carried a very important report yesterday. It said that you [word indistinct] have a very fat U.S. dollar account in a French bank. How true is this?

['Awn] Fat in what sense? For me as an individual, or for a certain purpose? What is fat by the individual's standards becomes very lean by international standards, and leaner still by the standards of the liberation march.

About 3 weeks ago, the official in charge of LE CANARD ENCHAINE, the newspaper which only publishes scandals, telephoned me to say: Is it true that you have a joint account in your own and your wife's name in a French bank? I said it does not concern you whether I have an account or not. He said: There is a very large sum. I said: Large or small, it does not concern you.

What do you want to know? I asked: Do you want to know if a scandal is involved? Do whatever you like, I said. I told him to look for someone else to telephone and I hung up. It seems that he published the report yesterday. I do not know in what form. There is indeed a U.S. dollar account for which I am authorized to sign in my own name. I draw on that account for purposes of expenditure on the national apparatus. [passage indistinct] Bank statements indicate that I have such a sum in my account. I have to open credits for certain purchases for institutions. According to Lebanese law, the purchases are regarded as being financed out of the national treasury. However, this money does not come from the treasury. It is made up of donations put at my disposal. If we need money we draw the necessary amounts. If we do not need it we do not withdraw anything. I take this opportunity to thank all those who have contributed to this account for carrying out their national responsibility. For the past 15 months, the Central Bank has abstained from paying a single cent for the maintainance of army equipment or the purchase of the necessary clothing or furniture. Those people have kindly provided this amount so that I can take care of the army's

requirements. Furthermore, the money is very important for providing assistance to martyrs' families, financial contingencies, and medical treatment of individuals abroad. These are all social services.

[Correspondent] Mr Prime Minister, how would you describe your meeting with Dr Ja'ja' yesterday?

['Awn] We always reach an understanding.

[Correspondent] Was there any progress along the lines you desire?

['Awn] We always understand each other. We always reassess the situation. You know that the situation is not static; things happen. Once in a while we need a reassessment of the situation. I believe that the basic issue is that the media's wager on a clash between us is a fantasy. There is no clash between us. Ultimately we all leave it up to the same people. We are all willing to respect the will of the people. Whatever the people say we will support their views. If we find ourselves dissatisfied with what the people have chosen.... [changes thought] I always believe that the Lebanese people want someone who respects their will. Dr Ja'ja' believes in the same thing. We refer to the same judgment. [end recording]

Phalangist Leader Sa'adah on French Position

PM0201105590 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 26 Dec 89 p 5

[Interview with Phalangist Party leader Dr George Sa'adah by unidentified correspondent in Paris; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] What is the situation now, in view of the Lebanese, Arab, and international emphasis on adherence to the al-Ta'if agreement and in view of Michel 'Awn's refusal to recognize Lebanese legitimacy and the existence of a general desire to make efforts to resolve the problem peacefully?

[Sa'adah] There is a firm desire to find peaceful solutions to the crisis of General 'Awn's refusal to recognize Lebanese legitimacy.

The al-Ta'if agreement, to which we agreed, is bound to resolve the problem peacefully. It is an agreement of security and peace and will not lead to any war. Everyone in Lebanon is against the use of force, we support the al-Ta'if agreement, and the objective of the efforts being made is to achieve peaceful solutions. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Do you believe that the French position changed after the meeting with the tripartite committee delegation?

[Sa'adah] A problem resulted from the fact that France had two positions—the government's position and the opposition's position. The visit to East Beirut by some opposition deputies gave some people the impression that France has changed its position and no longer supports Lebanese legitimacy. But the truth is that the French Government—as stated by French President Francois Mitterrand before his meeting with the ministerial delegation and as conveyed to us by [Saudi Foreign Minister] His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal—supports the al-Ta'if agreement and the legitimate authority in Lebanon. And to express that, its ambassador submitted his credentials to Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi. Furthermore, the French Government has pledged to play a reconciliation role in Lebanon, and it might be able to achieve positive results and prevent any further tragedies.

[Correspondent] You met with Jacques Chirac, former French prime minister and leader of the opposition. Are you trying to benefit from your presence in Paris to convince the French opposition of the importance of the al-Ta'if agreement and the need not to support General Michel 'Awn?

[Sa'adah] In fact we consider the al-Ta'if agreement the only way out of the Lebanese crisis. And, of course, when you are convinced of something, you must put it forward. We embarked on that task with our deputy colleagues, especially during our meeting with Jacques Chirac. But we discovered that Chirac was acquainted with the al-Ta'if agreement and his view of it was similar to ours. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Some claim that the tripartite agreement gave the Syrians a smaller role in Lebanon than that given to them by the recent agreement. What is your comment?

[Sa'adah] No, no. That is absolutely wrong. We in the Phalangist Party made a comparative study of the two agreements, and there is a big difference between them, especially with regard to two subjects: first, relations between Lebanon and Syria; second, the Syrian presence in Lebanon.

The tripartite agreement did not mention the Syrians' withdrawal. Actually it gave them an additional security role. With regard to special relations, the tripartite agreement endorsed the policy of integration in several fields, whereas in the al-Ta'if agreement, we stopped at the phrase "common strategic interests" and demanded that it be replaced by "common brotherly interests," and there is a very big difference between the tripartite agreement and the al-Ta'if agreement. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] How would you assess the Arab tripartite committee's role?

[Sa'adah] The higher Arab tripartite committee has played a creditable role. And during the al-Ta'if talks Foreign Minister His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and his colleagues worked with us through the night, then his royal highness visited Syria to serve the Lebanese cause.

The Arab tripartite committee is continuing its efforts to remove any obstacles, and we hope that its moves will produce the desired results and we appreciate its efforts.

Greece, Cyprus Advised on Air Violations

NC2912144289 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 29 Dec 89

[Text] Instructed by Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr Salim al-Huss, the Foreign Ministry sent the following cable to the Lebanese Embassy in Greece:

Certain local newspapers published advertisments about airplanes taking off from Halat airport with passengers for Athens. Since this act constitutes a violation of valid Lebanese laws and the air traffic agreement concluded between Lebanon and Greece, we therefore advise that you ask the appropriate Greek quarters not to allow any Lebanese aircraft, civil or military, except the Middle East Airlines [MEA] and Transmediterranean Airlines [TMA] to land in Greek airports without a special request from the Lebanese Government under Dr Salim al-Huss through the Lebanese Embassy in Athens.

The Foreign Ministry sent a similar cable to the Lebanese Embassy in Cyprus. The cable said: Small military and civil helicopters occasionaly take off from illegal airstrips in Lebanese areas and take civilian and military passengers to and from Cyprus. As this act represents a violation of valid Lebanese laws and does not honor the air traffic agreement between Lebanon and Cyprus, we advise that you ask the appropriate official Cypriot quarters not to allow any civil or military Lebanese aircraft, except MEA and TMA, to land in Cypriot airports, except after special request by the Lebanese Government under Dr Salim al-Huss through the Lebanese Embassy in Cyprus.

Cyprus To Abide by 'Instructions'

NC3012135589 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 30 Dec 89

[Text] Regarding the efforts to gain control of air traffic, it has been learned that the Cypriot authorities notified the competent authorities at Halat Airport that they will honor and abide by the instructions of the legitimate Lebanese authorities, led by the government of Dr Salim al-Huss, to refrain from receiving aircraft at Cypriot airports which do not have permits issued by the legitimate government. It has been learned that the parties concerned with these flights and supervisors held contacts with government departments on this issue. They were told that the decision to prevent these flights is valid and falls within the jurisdiction of the competent ministry.

'Awn's Million-Dollar Foreign Bank Funds Viewed

JN0401160790 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 4 Jan 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] After a French magazine revealed the mutinous general has two accounts in a French bank amounting to $15 million, the alleged hero of liberation was forced to admit it; he said the funds were allocated for the steadfastness of the eastern area. The truth is the general no longer distinguishes between his private funds and those of the Central Bank branch in Juniyah and the funds he collects by force and terrorism from East Beirut citizens on the pretext of supporting steadfastness. Had this money been allocated to meet the needs of citizens, it would have been kept in Lebanon, as there would be no need to move it to Paris. The general, however, who realizes his continued hold on B'abda Palace is impossible, tries to collect the spoils as quickly as possible through open encroachment on state funds on the one hand, and by robbing his citizens on the other. How else can we interpret the illegal taxes he imposes on the eastern area citizens and collects by force and intimidation?

In the final analysis, 'Awn's rejection of Lebanese legitimacy means nothing but rejection of the supremacy of law and the constitution. The legitimate authority's recapture of the eastern area means an end to encroachments and illegal acts. It also means the rule of law, parliamentary control, governmental responsibility toward citizens, and an opportunity for bringing blackmailers to justice. All this inflicts the heaviest losses on war profiteers who have a vital interest in the crisis continuing and in partitioning Lebanon if possible, to keep it a hotbed of sedition. Because eastern area figures realize, in view of their experiences and suffering, the purposes of the partitionists and mutineers, the general almost makes daily threats and dismisses officers of suspect loyalty to maintain the atmosphere of terrorism and prevent the citizens from removing the nightmare of dictatorship and tyranny and joining their brothers in the western area. These practices confirm 'Awn's determination to continue his criminal course to the end, or, in others words, until the Lebanese topple him by appropriate methods.

At the same time, Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi affirms his rejection of the plot of partition, and says: I have become president of the Republic to secure Lebanon's unity, impose the authority of the state through its organs represented by the Army and security forces so only the legitimate authority remains in control, and fulfill all Lebanese aspirations. He adds: We do not accept that areas continue to be separated from other areas, and I hope all barriers separating the Lebanese soon will be demolished so the reference to Beirut as east and west ceases to exist. He says: We must understand the unity of Lebanon begins from the country's south. Yes, President al-Hirawi works for the unity of Lebanon and the liberation of its occupied southern part. The mutinous general works to partition Lebanon and entrench the Israeli occupation of the south. President al-Hirawi works to impose the authority of the state and its institutions and to free the citizens from the nightmare of terrorism and blackmail. The mutinous general tortures citizens and collects taxes from them, which he quickly sends to foreign banks to be deposited in his personal accounts.

Now, would the eastern area citizens hesitate for one moment to come under the banner of the legitimate authority, reunite their country, and entrench the supremacy of the law? The answer is known. No people in the world, in recent or past times, have accepted to be led by gangs of robbers and looters, or given up the supremacy of the law in favor of blackmailers and agents.

Lebanon's march toward unity must triumph because it stands for the Lebanese people's fate and will.

Continued Military Cooperation With China Assured

PM0401160190 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 9 Jan 90 p 8

[Unattributed report: "China Determined To Arm Syria"]

[Text] The Syrian Government has officially received assurances from the Chinese Government of its commitment to military cooperation between the two countries.

AL-MAJALLAH has learned China pointed to pressure from the United States during a visit to Beijing by U.S. National Security Adviser Scowcroft 3 weeks ago, and that the U.S. demands in that regard were rejected.

In that context, the Chinese Government emphasized the officials stressed to Scowcroft that, since Israel is being armed with with the most technologically advanced weapons, stability means maintaining the military capabilities of the other neighbors.

Afghanistan

Najibullah's Instructions on Aid to Northeast

LD0401161590 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 4 Jan 90

[Text] Instructions issued by the president of Afghanistan concerning assistance for the inhabitants of the northeast regions of Afghanistan:

According to reports reaching the president's office, recently a number of opposition commanders in the country's northeast regions, seeking to eliminate the shortage of foodstuffs in their areas of activity and to increase agricultural production in the coming year, have asked international sources for help.

In line with the humanitarian policy of national reconciliation and the feeling of great responsibility to the homeland and to all the people of Afghanistan, the Afghan state instructs the Republican Government of Afghanistan:

In order to render humanitarian assistance to children, women, and the elderly in those provinces, the government should provide necessary quantity of basic goods: wheat, flour, sugar, cooking oil, medicine, chemical fertilizer, improved agricultural seeds, tents, blankets, and other necessary materials. State assistance should be given to those entitled to it, under the supervision of the local national reconciliation commission delegations.

The republican Afghan state hopes that commanders of armed groups in these regions, realizing the humanitarian aspect of state assistance, will provide suitable facilities for the activities of the national reconciliation commissions in their efforts to distribute material assistance.

[Signed] Najibullah, President of Afghanistan

Foreign Minister Appeals to UN Secretary General

LD0101223190 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 1 Jan 90

[Letter from 'Abdul Wakil, minister of foreign affairs, to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar; date not given]

[Text] Your Excellency Javier Perez de Cuellar, secretary general of the United Nations. Despite the fact that about 20 months have elapsed since the signing of the Geneva agreements, military intervention, war, and fratricide in our country have not been alleviated and have taken on a new dimension and quality. Our people now witness the intensification of war in the shape of rocket attacks on civilians. I would like to bring to your attention the fact that extremists and Saudi mercenaries, who have a center for military training and depots of lethal weapons in Pakistan, in December 1989 martyred 30 innocent compatriots, injured 98 others, and destroyed 13 houses by launching 192 rockets on the residential areas of the city of Kabul. The major aim of this war and terrorism is the people of Afghanistan, and the profound inhumane characteristic of that bloody action is also seen in this fact.

The continuation of this situation emanates from the grave failure to observe the undertakings and obligations which Pakistan accepted as a signatory of the Geneva agreements. Not only does Pakistan in practice reject the Geneva agreements, it also violates all international norms and principles which must be observed and regarded in the relations of countries. Pakistan has violated the Geneva agreements, especially Instrument I of the agreements, 8,002 times since their signing. This was reported to UNGOMAP [United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan] in 1,018 notes. Pakistan publicly follows the policy of international terrorism against the people of the Republic of Afghanistan. The launching of advanced weapons, including rockets with various ranges and qualities, from the territory of Pakistan is irrefutable evidence of Pakistan's participation in conducting rocket attacks on the cities of Afghanistan, including the city of Kabul.

Being aware of the profound importance of the UN peace mechanism, which is enshrined in the charter of the organization and is its credible international document, and being aware of Your Excellency's moral influence as the UN secretary general, the Republic of Afghanistan requests your immediate action to prevent rocket attacks on residential areas, convoys, hospitals, nurseries, and other concentrations of population, and the prevention of mass terrorization of women, children, old people, as well as the material and economic damages that are inflicted on our compatriots by the acts of the extremists and by violation of the Geneva agreements by Pakistan. Please accept my best regards.

'Abdul Wakil, minister of foreign affairs for the Republic of Afghanistan.

Keshtmand Chairs Council of Ministers Session

LD0201220790 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 2 Jan 90

[Text] The administration office of the Council of Ministers reported that the session of the Council of Ministers Executive Committee was held this morning at Council of Ministers Headquarters under the chairmanship of Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the Council of Ministers Executive Committee, with the participation of deputy prime ministers, a number of ministers, and heads of departments of the Republic of Afghanistan.

At this session of the Executive Committee, in consideration of the issues raised at a session dated 12 November 1989 of the Supreme Defense Council of the Homeland, other issues on the work and activities of the deputy defense minister's office in charge of construction affairs were assessed and the repair, construction, and revival work of some installations in the medical science

academy of the armed forces of the Republic of Afghanistan, military academy, and military school were considered. A contingency plan was approved at this session of the executive committee for completing construction, renovation, and equipping work in these institutions. Within this plan specific duties were assigned to the Ministry of Defense, ministries of plan, finance, public health, higher and vocational education, and water and electricity, and to the central office of labor and social security.

Similarly in today's session issues related to the supply of oil products and gas needed by the agencies of ministries and administrations in some provinces of the country were taken under consideration. A commission has been appointed to assess problems related to the shortage of gas in agencies, projects, and related administrations and to present specific proposals in this respect to the Council of Ministers.

Finally, in today's session due decisions were made on the supply of spare parts for Jangalak factories to accelerate repair work of motor vehicles and other related issues.

Power, Water Shortages in Kabul Described

BK0301125990 Hong Kong AFP in English 1226 GMT 3 Jan 90

[By Pratap Chakravarty]

[Excerpts] Kabul, Jan 3 (AFP)—A heavy fall of snow in Kabul and neighbouring regions Wednesday brought revived hopes for a good summer harvest in central Afghanistan and a more regular supply of scarce power and water in the capital, experts said. [passage omitted]

The snow-covered Paghman mountains, which were slowly shedding their white coat, put on a thick layer of fresh snow Wednesday, triggering optimism that fresh supplies of water would flow into the almost-dry Kabul River, the main source of water for the city of 1.5 million people.

"We have some bore wells, but the dry climate had shrunk the sub-soil water tables and this snow will not only supply the river but also feed underground reserves," one expert said. A government spokesman said the snowfall was also necessary to keep alive irrigation projects that spread out across Afghanistan's desolate landscape to some farm areas. [passage omitted]

Residents in the city are allowed electricity on alternate days and the daily blackouts leave chunks of Kabul in total darkness, forcing many to make other cooking and heating arrangements. [passage omitted]

The government spokesman said the present winter, which also brings the inevitable shortages, was however more comfortable than the previous one, widely believed to be the worst in 16 years. He said that due to the opening of most major intercity highways, prices of food and fuel had come down 50 to 100 percent.

The government during the past three months had imported 26,000 tonnes of cooking oil, 24,000 tonnes of fuel and another 95,000 tonnes of other items from Wardak and Jalalabad in the east and Hayratan on the Soviet border to ease the shortages in the city, he said. Prices soar and essential stores vanish from Kabul markets when resistance guerrillas cut off the supply routes.

AFP Examines Possible PDPA Overtures to Ex-King

BK3012072289 Hong Kong AFP in English 0638 GMT 30 Dec 89

[By Pratap Chakravarty]

[Text] Kabul, Dec 30 (AFP)—President Najibullah's Soviet-backed administration is likely to make new overtures for the return of deposed King Zahir Shah to Afghanistan in a bid to boost its foundering peace initiatives, government sources and diplomats here say.

Subtle overtures are expected to begin when the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) ends celebrations of its 25th anniversary January with pomp and fanfare and several political announcements, party sources said.

Government sources said it was unlikely that the regime would directly invite the 74-year-old ex-monarch to join the process of reconciliation, but it would give enough indication that the administration would not create obstacles if the king chose to return. "The reasons the government does not want to send out an invitation is because it is wary of committing itself to any future demands the king makes after he comes," the sources said. Kabul has in the past reacted cautiously to suggestions for the king's return.

The French-educated king, who ascended to the Afghan throne in 1933, reigned for 40 years until he was overthrown by his cousin and former Prime Minister Muhammad Daud. The king went into exile in Rome and Mr. Daud died in a communist-planned military uprising in April 1978.

Speculation over the Najibullah government's change in stance over the issue of the king's return gained momentum after Prime Minister Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand said this week that Kabul had neither any objections to it nor saw any obstacle if he wished to participate in peace talks.

The prime minister, who belongs to Mr. Najibullah's moderate Parcham faction within the PDPA, also indicated the government's view on a united thrust for peace talks with the fragmented mujahidin resistance alliances, hinting that a path had already been paved for the king's return and participation in future talks.

"It is up to him, he is prepared to return because we have already explained our viewpoint regarding his return. We see no obstacles also to his coming back," Mr.

Keshtmand said in a recent interview. [sentence as received] "We have clearly put forward our views and have said that anybody including the former king who is useful for the restoration of peace in the country and for the cause of national reconciliation can join the process," he said.

He declined to reply to a direct question on whether his government would officially invite the exiled monarch, who in September said he was prepared to return to the country and call a "loya jirgah" (grand council) of all concerned with the Afghan problem.

Kabul-based diplomats said the Afghan Government balked at a loya jirgah with representatives from the Pakistan-based seven-party mujahidin alliance or from the Iran-based eight-party resistance. The mujahidin have rejected President Najibullah's national reconciliation policies and have ignored earlier amnesty offers and ceasefires, demanding that the president and the PDPA should resign first before beginning talks for a broad-based coalition government.

Mr. Najibullah, who became president in November 1987 and hounded members of the rural-based Khalq faction of the PDPA for two years, suddenly changed his stand a month after the king's announcement and in October took four Khalqis into his party's hallowed Central Committee.

"The promotions were clear signals that Najib wanted a wider participation for beginning a fresh phase of dialogues for an Afghan settlement," a diplomat from an Asian country said, referring to the stalemate Kabul faces in trying to bring in the rebels to talks.

The rebels, who in previous winters have had their fighting edge dulled by extreme cold, this year have stepped up shelling of Kabul and although Soviet troops departed in February, they rocketed Kabul on an unprecedented scale Wednesday to mark the 1979 Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan.

"They will again bombard the city on New Year's day to mark the PDPA raising ceremony 25 years ago," an official said, referring to the rebels' bitter hostility to the party. "President Najibullah has to do something quickly to end the shelling of Kabul and he has to do something dramatic like bringing the old king in," the diplomat said, adding that all military options against the gunners have failed so far leading to a gross loss of face for the government in the capital.

(In New Delhi, a leader of the Kabul-based Afghan National Salvation Society, Dr. Akhbar Umar, said he had been given permission to travel abroad to contact refugee groups of all political hues with a view to finding common ground on the king's return.

(Dr. Umar said he had already contacted groups from the United States and would be making further contacts in a three-week visit here. The National Salvation Society was set up in Kabul by intellectuals and former ministers of Zahir Shah to lobby for the king's return.

(Hardliners within the PDPA and the mujahidin are opposed to the king playing a role, while most refugee groups and moderates take the view that he is the only eminent Afghan whose appeal is broad enough to win the confidence of the people, arguing that his "hands have not been bloodied" by the war.)

Mojadeddi Says U.S. Suspends Weapons Supply

BK0401115490 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 2 Jan 90 p 8

[Text] Multan, Jan 1—President of Afghan Interim Government Sebghatullah Mojaddedi was optimistic about the future of Afghan mujahidin and said that they would get complete control on Afghanistan within next three or four months. Talking to newsmen here today he said that United States had suspended the supply of weapons to mujahidin and launched a vilification campaign against Afghan freedom fighters to create unrest and difference among them.

Chief Justice of Afghan Interim Government, Pir Sayyed Ahmed Gaylani has told that Hanafi jurisprudence (Fiqh Hanfia) would be enforced in Afghanistan after toppling the Dr. Najib government and cases of Shiites would be decided in the light of Fiqh Jafaria. He told that Interim Government had set up courts and appointed judges to resolve disputes and to provide speedy justice to the people living in liberated areas. He informed that a comprehensive programme had been chalked out to introduce complete judicial system and to enforce Nizam-e Shariah in Afghanistan. Chief Justice said a specific course for the judges had been prepared and they were being trained under it. He asserted that groundwork for the promulgation of Shariah in Afghanistan after the downfall of Dr. Najib had been completed. He went on to say that the supremacy of law had been established in the liberated areas and speedy justice would be provided to all without any discrimination.

Denies Accusations Against U.S.

BK0401115890 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 3 Jan 90 p 8

[Text] Peshawar, Jan. 2—The AIG [Afghan interim government] President Prof. Sebghatullah Mojadeddi has clarified a news item appearing in THE MUSLIM today which quoted him as accusing the United States of suspending the supply of weapons to Afghan mujahidin and launching a campaign of vilification against them to create unrest and differences in the resistance.

In a clarification issued by the Secretariat of the AIG Presidency Tuesday [2 January], it was claimed that Prof Mojadeddi neither met THE MUSLIM correspondent in Multan nor was the supply of arms or the U.S. ever mentioned.

Bangladesh

Ershad Addresses Parliament Session 4 Jan

BK0401141290 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 4 Jan 90

[Text] The winter session of the Jatiya Sangsad [Parliament] began in Dhaka today with speaker Shamsul Huda Chowdhury in the chair. Addressing the first session of the current year, President Ershad called for a strong national unity to provide democracy with an institutional force for which the process is on. The president said the coming upazilla [subdistrict] elections to be held in March next will further help consolidate democracy in the country. The government is determined to hold this local body election in an absolutely free, fair, and impartial manner. Other national elections will also be held in the same manner in due course. In this connection, the president sought the cooperation of all concerned, particularly the opposition political parties, in maintaining the conducive climate for holding all future elections peacefully.

President Ershad said a developing country like ours needs political stability, social peace, and discipline as well as hard work to speed up development and ensure people's welfare. He noted with satisfaction that the country attained a considerable success in these fields during the last few years. Stressing the need for rising above group or party interests and participating in the broader process of national unity, the president said our emancipation lies in it and this is the way how we can make our hard-earned independence meaningful.

President Ershad gave a brief resume of the achievements of the present government during the last few years. He told the members of Parliament that the growth rate during the current fiscal year is expected to rise up to 5.9 percent compared to that of 2.1 percent last year. The overall inflation rate has also shown a downward trend. The president said the fourth 5-year plan, which will begin from July next, will form part of the 20-year prospective plan. President Ershad gave a (?clean) picture of the government efforts as well as international cooperation in combating natural calamities.

Giving an account of the government efforts for improving the condition of the downtrodden, the president made a particular reference to the Operation Thikana and the Kathakali Trust. He said food production in the country has increased considerably as a result of pragmatic steps taken by the governent for agricultural development. The attainment of self sufficiency in food by 1992 will not be difficult, if the present rate of food production continues.

Iranian Delegation Signs Cooperation Accord

BK3112130089 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 31 Dec 89

[Text] Bangladesh and Iran have identified five specific areas of cooperation for setting up joint venture industries with special emphasis on leather, sugar, and textile sectors. An agreed minutes to this effect was signed between the visiting Iranian investment delegation and the Bangladesh government in Dhaka Saturday [30 December]. The Iranian side also agreed to provide machinery and technical assistance for modernization of a number of textile units in the country.

The seven-member, high-powered Iranian investment delegation left Dhaka Saturday afternoon for Tehran, ending a week-long visit to Bangladesh.

India

Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Arrives in Madras

Carrying Premadasa Message

BK0401162190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 Jan 90

[Text] The Sri Lankan foreign minister, Mr Ranjan Wijeratne, said he will discuss the deinduction of the remaining IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] personnel from Sri Lanka and the Indo-Sri Lankan Friendship Treaty with the external affairs minister, Mr I.K. Gujral, during his visit to Delhi. He said this soon after arriving in Madras today on his way to Delhi. He said he is carrying a message from President Premadasa to the prime minister, Mr V.P. Singh.

Arrives in Delhi

BK0501090490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 5 Jan 90

[Text] The Sri Lankan foreign minister, Mr Ranjan Wijeratne, arrived in New Delhi today for talks on the speedy deinduction of the PKF [Peacekeeping Force] from the island nation and other related issues. He was received at the airport by the external affairs minister, Mr I.K. Gujral. Mr Wijeratne is carrying a message for the prime minister, Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh, from the Sri Lankan president, Mr Premadasa.

Earlier yesterday, the Sri Lankan foreign minister had a meeting with the Tamil Nadu chief minister, Mr M. Karunanidhi, in Madras. They discussed the present situation in Sri Lanka. An official press release issued in Madras described the meeting as a courtesy call. Mr Wijeratne appreciated Mr Karunanidhi's efforts to bring peace among the Tamil groups in Sri Lanka.

LTTE Adviser Comments on Talks on Sri Lanka

BK0201100090 Madras DINAMALAR in Tamil 18 Dec 89 pp 1, 8

[Text] Madras, 18 December. The LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] political adviser, Balasingham, said yesterday that the talks on the Sri Lankan issue had been constructive, satisfactory, and held in a cordial atmosphere.

The Tamil Nadu chief minister, Karunanidhi, held talks for 2 days with LTTE political adviser Balasingham and [LTTE cadre] Yogi as per the request of Prime Minister V.P. Singh to find a solution to the Sri Lankan Tamil issue. Yesterday morning, at the end of the talks, Balasingham spoke to newsmen:

The talks held with Karunanidhi for the past 2 days on the Sri Lankan issue were constructive, cordial, and satisfactory. The role played by Karunanidhi in these talks was satisfactory. Now only the Government of India has chosen a suitable person to create durable peace and conducive atmosphere in Sri Lanka.

We, the LTTE, are happy over the choice of Karunanidhi to review the complicated situation in Sri Lanka and devise means to establish durable peace and a cordial atmosphere there. He has not only understood this problem in the last 30 years but has understood the leaders of the Tamil freedom fighters as well.

These talks are a thousand times better than those held by the Government of India with the help of RAW [Research and Analysis Wing] intelligence officers in the past.

During the talks, we put forward the current political and constitutional issues in Sri Lanka. We made some useful proposals to the chief minister for resolving the issue under the existing favorable circumstances. We hope that Karunanidhi will convey our views to the prime minister and find a way for a durable solution to the issue. Under the existing circumstances, we cannot divulge the plans discussed and proposals made at the talks.

For quite a long time, we have been speaking about the circumstances under which the LTTE will return to the national mainstream. The existing government in the Northeastern Province of Sri Lanka was not elected in a democratic way. It is a government that, with the help of the Indian Peacekeeping Force [IPKF], was thrust upon the people by the former regime in India. That government should be dissolved. The LTTE can take part in the elections to be held thereafter in a democratic way. The existing Tamil provincial government is unacceptable to us and to the Tamil people as well. That government should be dissolved and elections held forthwith. A political wing has independently functioned within the LTTE organization since 1976. We have decided to convert that wing into a party and have applied to the election commission to get it registered. We hope that within a couple of days we will be granted permission. After that we will undertake campaigning among the people.

Only democratically held elections can prove that the LTTE is the sole representative of the Sri Lankan Tamils.

We will announce the name of our party before newsmen in Colombo after the approval of the election commission. The ideals and objectives of our party will be explained then.

There has been a wrong impression that the LTTE wants a single-party system. However, we have shifted our stance. Some years ago we were following Marxist ideologies. The recent revolutions in East Europe have changed us. We have decided to accept a multi-party democratic system. All parties should contest the elections. The leaders of those parties should be given adequate protection.

We will not allow the presence of any foreign army in our country. The IPKF should also quit as soon as possible. We protected the Tamil people by fighting against the Sinhalese army in Sri Lanka. The IPKF, which came into Sri Lanka to protect the Tamils, has not properly accomplished its mission. During the return [to India] of the IPKF, the RAW intelligence agency has set up a representative army called the Tamil National Army [TNA] in Sri Lanka.

Youths and schoolboys have been forcibly recruited into this TNA. The members of this army, who have sophisticated weapons, have undergone training for only 2 months. They are being provided with cigarettes and liquor and are shown blue movies. These boys have surrendered to us by the thousands. We have come to know about these bizarre happenings from them. Hence, we are capturing the TNA members after the withdrawal of the Indian forces in Amparai and Batticaloa. This army cannot provide protection to the Tamils. It seems that they will frighten people with their sophisticated weapons.

We have announced a cease-fire with other organizations in Sri Lanka. Now we are fighting against the TNA only. The TNA should be disbanded. A cordial atmosphere will be created only after the elections.

Now, the LTTE does not have a conducive atmosphere to lay down its arms. We will think about laying down arms only when there is a permanent political solution to the issue.

Now, there is constitutional approval for possessing arms in Sri Lanka. [sentence as published]

In the militarized Sri Lanka, it is possible to move about safely only with weapons. At this juncture, we cannot say that we have given up the demand for Tamil Eelam. We can give serious thought to that demand only after attaining a durable political settlement. It is to be noted that ministers and members of Parliament in Sri Lanka have their own armed bodyguards. We hope that the current unconditional talks can lead to a durable solution. We want India and Sri Lanka to be allies with still

closer ties. The Sri Lankan Tamils believe that India can play a constructive role from outside.

Observers and journalists from India should be invited to see whether the upcoming elections in Sri Lanka are being held peacefully and fairly.

We cannot say now whether [LTTE leader] Prabhakaran will contest the elections. The LTTE will contest the elections.

The event of the arrival of Sri Lankan refugees in India was artificially created.

The talks with the Sri Lankan Government have not concluded, but are going on regularly. A decision will be made about continuing the talks on the basis of the information provided by Karunanidhi after his return from New Delhi. The IPKF cannot return from Sri Lanka by 31 December. Therefore, it is better if the two countries make some arrangements until the withdrawal of all the troops.

We cannot say anything about the participation of Prabhakaran at the talks. The fighting is going still. It will not be safe for him to come out now.

The services rendered by the chief ministers Karunanidhi and M.G.R. [M.G. Ramachandran, former Tamil Nadu chief minister] to resolve the Sri Lankan issue are incomparable. The issues and the circumstances were different then. The issues that have cropped up now are different. M.G.R. had extended a lot of assistance to the LTTE.

During the interview, Yogi was also with him. Balasingham met the journalists at the Port Trust guest house. Tight police security was provided around the guest house. Journalists were allowed in only after a search by the police. Photographers were not allowed in.

The LTTE circles have also announced that an LTTE party office will be opened in Madras soon. During his interview, Balasingham accused the former central government in India of leading the Sri Lankan issue to a destructive path by getting bad advice from the RAW intelligence officers. He said: We do not like their interference, even now. The Rajiv Gandhi government tried to resolve this issue in an authoritative manner and failed. Therefore, Balasingham said, it is quite welcome that the politicians who can understand the issue have come forward for the talks.

Visiting EPRLF Spokesman States Polls Condition

BK0201053490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 2 Jan 90

[Text] The EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front] has said that it is ready for fresh elections in the Northeastern Province of Sri Lanka if the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] renounced violence, particularly against Tamil organizations and the provincial government.

The EPRLF spokesman, Mr Keertiswaran, who is currently in New Delhi, told UNI that the view that the LTTE should join the mainstream is welcome. He said that the LTTE should hold talks with the Tamil National Council and the northeastern administration instead of resorting to violence.

Tamil Nadu Congress Chief Urges Disarming LTTE

BK0101140090 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 1 Jan 90

[Text] The president of the Congress Committee-I in the southern state of Tamil Nadu has urged the Sri Lankan and Indian Governments and the state chief minister, Mr Karunanidhi, to persuade the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] to surrender arms. Addressing a press conference in the state capital, Madras, today, Mr Ramamurthy said if the LTTE fails to surrender, then they should be disarmed. This is necessary if there is to be a political solution to the island's ethnic issue. Mr Ramamurthy said there can be no negotiated settlement without disarming all the Tamil militants.

Nepalese Foreign Minister Calls on V.P. Singh

BK0401125790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 4 Jan 90

[Text] The Nepalese foreign minister, Mr Shailendra Kumar Upadhyaya, called on the prime minister, Mr V.P. Singh, in New Delhi today. He is understood to have handed over a letter from King Birendra to the prime minister.

Official Discusses Intellectual Property Rights

BK1812120089 Delhi PATRIOT in English 5 Dec 89 p 9

[Text] India is not averse to giving protection to Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) but is opposed to a system that hampers the building up of indigenous technological capabilities, an official of the Ministry of Commerce said in the Capital on Monday [4 December], reports PTI.

India would like to give adequate protection to IPR to encourage investment and technology acquisition provided such protection "is balanced by our own developmental, technological, and public interest needs", said Mr A.V. Ganesan, Special Secretary and Chief Negotiator for the Uruguay round of talks.

In his keynote address to the "National Conference of Scientists on Science, Technology and Patents" Mr Ganesan said India would like to evolve an IPR regime "which protects IPR on the one hand and stimulates domestic technological capacities on the other".

He said the question of protection of IPR is no longer confined to the realm of science and technology "but has become a central issue in international trade, investment and economic relations".

Justifying protection of IPR, Mr Ganesan said that Indian industry will have to acquire the capability to compete in external markets and earn export revenues "if our economy is to move away from being a closed economy and get integrated into the world economy".

"The role of the intellectual property protection system should therefore be seen by us both from the point of our building up our own indigenous technological capabilities as well as from being in a position to export to the world markets our products and to acquire the technology and investment needed by us from abroad", he said.

He said that many developing nations are now trying to integrate their economies into the mainstream of the world economy. "For a country like ours, integration into the world economy hinges upon our ability to increase our exports on an enduring basis".

Mr Ganesan said external commercial borrowing and foreign equity investment cannot sustain the imports of capital goods. Raw material and technologies which would be about $20 billion by the middle of the next decade.

Over 150 scientists and technologists are participating in the meeting, the second in a series organised by the National Working Group on Patent Laws.

Earlier, inaugurating the conference, Prof M.G.K Menon [appointed minister of state for science and technology 18 December], member of the Planning Commission, called for a public debate on the question of changing patent laws and cautioned the Government against any hasty action based "purely on notes, files and internal meetings."

He said that Intellectual Property Rights is only a part of the totality of a just economic order.

Joining the Paris Convention or changing patent laws to give protection to IPR are issues that cannot be discussed in isolation, Prof Menon said.

Commentary Reviews India's External Debt

BK2712142589 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Commentary by Rakeshwari Pathak of PRESS TRUST OF INDIA: "India's External Debt"]

[Text] India's growing reliance on external borrowing to meet increasing developmental needs has today become not only a cause of grave concern but also poses a serious challenge to the new finance minister, Mr Madhu Dandavate. The latest World Bank publication, "World Debt Tables 1989-90," puts India's foreign debt at more than $51 billion, trebling the debt service ratio from 8 percent in 1980 to an estimated 27 percent in 1988.

As per the World Bank estimates, India, along with Pakistan and Indonesia, falls in the category of moderately indebted low-income countries. Inclusive of the nonresident Indian, NRI, deposits, the total foreign debt amounts to over 10,000 billion rupees and the debt service ratio is as high as 30 percent. Upper safe limit of debt servicing being 20 percent, the situation was alarming and the economy had become insolvent. Even by his reckoning, one of the most challenging tasks facing the newly elected V.P. Singh government is to ease the pressures of external borrowing while continuing the pace of economic growth. He has, however, assured that no curbs on imports would be made that could dislocate production by existing units. Though the country was now borrowing only to repay the old loans, the large and recurrent current account deficit that emerged during the seventh plan period were mainly financed through inflows of capital from abroad by way of multilateral and bilateral assistance, commercial borrowings, and NRI deposits.

According to the annual report of the Reserve Bank of India, as a result of current account deficits India's external debt had risen rather significantly in the past few years. India's long-term debt, which was relatively small at the end of March 1980 at 1,334 billion rupees, rose to around 3,600 billion rupees by end of March 1985 and further rose to 6,970 billion rupees by the end of March 1989. Various sources have, however, evaluated India's external indebtedness to be higher than what the official data have indicated. These differences are attributable to the fact that official data do not include NRI deposits to liabilities, short-term debt which is treated to be in the nature of normal trade credit, and the exchange rate valuation differences, which is the difference between the book value and the market value.

As a matter of fact, the bunching of various borrowings and the repayments thereof have put tremendous pressure on India's balance of payment position, notwithstanding the rapid increase in the country's export earnings. As per the statistics released by the bank, the ratio of India's debt to gross national product, GNP, is 22.23 percent, debt-to-export ratio is 263 percent, scheduled debt service-to-exports is 29.23 percent, the ratio of scheduled interest payments to exports is 14 percent.

The situation was more difficult on commercial borrowings. India's external debt outstanding to commercial banks have been steadily rising, and because of mounting payments of principal and interest net transfers from commercial banks to India in 1988 was a negative $309 million.

As experience has shown, the problem of external debt cannot be tackled only by maximizing exports and minimizing imports. The self-reliance aspect has to be viewed in terms of how the recurring large budgetary deficits could be brought under control. The economic survey for 1988-89 has put it, and I quote: An improvement on the current account of the balance of payment requires a reduction in the overall savings-investment

gap of the economy. In situations such as ours, where the recent widening of the saving-investment gap is largely attributable to deterioration in budgetary savings, a turnaround in budgetary performance will contribute substantially toward a sustained improvement in the balance of payments, unquote.

The saving-investment gap has to be financed by domestic market borrowings, budgetary deficits, and external savings. With the emerging fiscal crises in the domestic front, foreign borrowings were not merely used in closing the trade gap, but they also gradually performed the role of bridging a sizable portion of the savings gap. The countries which had not rescheduled their debts include almost all of Asia, while the debt had tended to grow rapidly over the past decade. In this backdrop, Mr (Fisher Sheef) of economics of World Bank stressed the need for strong official support for countries like India, Indonesia, and Pakistan without which growth in some of these countries might be retarded even if debt and debt service reduction is obtained later.

The World Bank document said that India belonged to the group of countries that had managed their economies prudently though their debt burdens are high. Accordingly, India has been bracketed in the group of modestly indebted countries whose debt service ratio and debt-to-export ratio have remained fairly steady during the late eighties.

Indefinite Curfew Imposed in Kashmir Towns

BK0501031690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 5 Jan 90

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, almost all the main towns of the Kashmir valley were put under an indefinite curfew from 2100 hours last night. An official spokesman told our Srinagar correspondent that the step has been taken following the reports received by the government that some underground militant organizations are planning large-scale disturbances in the valley today. The towns are Srinagar, Baramula, Sopor, Handwara, Anantnag, Shupiyan, Pulwama, Bijbiara, Thor, Bandipur, Pampur, and (Trehadam).

Bombs Explode in Baramula Town

BK0501091290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 5 Jan 90

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, curfew continues in all the towns of Kashmir valley where it was imposed at 2100 yesterday. Police and paramilitary forces are patrolling the towns. An official spokesman told the All India Radio Srinagar correspondent a short while ago that no untoward incident was reported from anywhere in the curfew-bound towns.

However, agency reports say that three bomb blasts rocked Baramula town last night.

Bill on Radio, Television Autonomy Introduced

BK2912075789 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 29 Dec 89

[Text] The much awaited bill to grant autonomy to television and radio was introduced in the Lok Sabha today. The bill, known as Prasar Bharati—Broadcasting Corporation of India—bill, which was introduced by the information and broadcasting minister, Mr P. Upendra, provides for the establishment of a single corporation for the two electronic media. Describing the bill as a charter of freedom to be given to the voice of the people, Mr Upendra said it fulfills part of the promise of an open government given by the National Front. He said the intention of the bill is that the corporation should function as a genuinely autonomous body—innovative, dynamic and flexible—with a high degree of credibility. It must function in a democratic manner to enrich our democratic traditions and institutions, keeping in mind the varied traditions, languages, and cultures of the country.

The corporation will have a board of governors comprising a chairman, an executive governor, a financial governor, and a governor in charge of personnel matters. Besides these full-time functionaries, the board will also have six part-time governors, who will be people of eminence drawn from different walks of life. The governors will be appointed by the president on the recommendations of a committee of the chairman of the Rajya Sabha, the chairman of the Press Council, and a nominee of the president.

The bill also provides for a broadcasting council which will ensure that the corporation does not stray from the objective functioning catering to various sections of the society. It will also consider complaints about programs broadcast by the corporation and give suitable advice to the board of governors.

Delhi Police Smash Drug Network, Seize Heroin

BK0101143790 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 1 Jan 90

[Text] Delhi police today smashed a big drug network with the arrest of a narcotic peddler and the seizure of 5 kg of heroin. According to police sources, the family-run drug network was operating in Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh and was responsible for supplying drugs to small-time pushers.

With this seizure, Delhi police has netted 135 kg of heroin and arrested 1,379 persons in 1989 for their involvement in the drug trade.

Iran

Noriega Handover Shows U.S.-Vatican 'Alliance'

NC0401200290 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 4 Jan 90

[From the "Behind the News" program]

[Text] The handover of the anti-American Panamanian general to the invading U.S. forces came as a surprise to observers, as there are no agreements on extraditing opposition figures between the United States and the Vatican. The handover was a process which involved deception and betrayal and dishonored and abased the country involved in it.

The Vatican's claims that Noriega surrendered voluntarily are a farce designed to put a good face on this shameful act and present it in an acceptable light. Noriega refused to hand himself over to the U.S authorities. Before taking sanctuary at the Vatican's embassy, Noriega said he would rather die than be arrested by U.S. forces, as was reported by Western news agencies. By seeking sanctuary at the Vatican's embassy, Noriega wanted to deny the U.S. forces the opportunity to lay their hands on him after they had crushed the pro-Noriega resistance.

Furthermore, sources at the Vatican's embassy in Panama had referred to their intensive talks with the Panamanian general. At the time, Western news agencies noted the talks focused on persuading the general to surrender to the Americans so he could avoid being sentenced to death by denying certain charges [as heard].

Media sources asserted the Panamanian general had refused to surrender. This was further confirmed when the Vatican sent a special envoy to support the efforts of the Vatican's embassy when no solution to the problem appeared in sight in view of Noriega's refusal to surrender and of the U.S insistence on arresting him.

Handing over the Panamanian general once again uncovers the secret alliance between the United States and the pope. It also reveals the papal see's primary task in the Christian, as well as the Muslim world: to serve the U.S imperialist schemes and implement them quietly in both the Christian and Muslim worlds by making use of its image of holiness among these peoples.

Loyally carrying out this task, the pope handed over a general who was defending his people's honor and dignity against an invading imperialist state which was violating the sanctity of his country. The pope earlier had opposed handing over the late unlamented shah of Iran, when the Iranian people demanded he be brought to acount for the abhorent crimes he had committed throughout his ill-fated reign.

Yazdi Sermon on Supreme Jurisconsult, Panama

LD0501115190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Our Muslim and faithful compatriots throughout the country with their extensive participation in Friday prayers observed this eternal Muhammadan tradition. The monotheistic and hezbollahi ummah of Tehran today, like previous Fridays, gathered at the University of Tehran and its surrounding streets to perform Friday prayers under the imamate of Ayatollah Yazdi.

In his Friday prayers sermons, the head of the judiciary expressed his condolences on the anniversary of the martyrdom of Her Holiness Fatimah Zahra [Prophet Muhammad's daughter, 'Ali's wife], peace be upon her. Then he dealt with the issue of guardianship or trusteeship in Islam and quoted the Koranic verse: Obey God, and obey the prophet and those who are in authority among you. He then said:

His Holiness Muhammad, God's benedictions be upon him, declared obedience to the immaculate imams related [mansub] to him as a duty; and the imams [12 Shiite imams], and have placed obedience to the vice regent of the jurisconsult [Khamene'i] alongside obedience to the immaculate imams, the prophet, and God.

Ayatollah Yazdi emphasized: In the Constitution of the Islamic Republic, the system, the foundations of the state, the legitimacy of all ruling organs, including the government, the Majles, and the judiciary are all based upon the principle of guardianship or vice regency, and it is according to this principle that the government is provided with legitimacy and the right of sovereignty is transferred from God, the prophet, the pure imams and the imam's deputies [reference to individuals claimed to be in contact with the hidden imam] to the supreme jurisconsult.

Stressing that all the Iranian people are behind the leadership, the government, the Majles, the judiciary, and affiliated organizations, the head of the judiciary said: In the people's view the basic goals of the revolution enjoy a high degree of sanctity, and all the people under the guidance of the leadership are moving toward the achievement of those goals. If there are any differences of opinion it is quite natural, and the decrees of the leader whenever there is any need will solve the problem.

He added: Today the leader of the Islamic revolution, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, is occupying the place of the imam, may he be admitted to God's paradise, and by shouldering the same responsibilities he is in charge of supervising the entire system.

Condemning the U.S. military aggression against the small country of Panama, Mr Yazdi said: By what authority did the United States attack Panama? U.S. leaders who claim to be supporters of human rights—what justification have they got for this invasion? If the United States has some differences with Panama over the Panama Canal, has this matter been ever taken to an international tribunal? Therefore, resorting to force is contrary to international laws and regulations.

At the end, he expressed his congratulations on the birth of His Holiness Jesus, peace be upon him, to all the Christians.

Rally Against 'Satanic Verses' Planned in London

LD0401204190 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 4 Jan 90

[Text] The British Muslims will stage a standard demonstration in front of the Penguin publication office in London next week. The main objective behind this move, which has been coordinated by the Bradford Mosques Council, is to prevent the new publication of the novel "The Satanic Verses." The British daily INDEPENDENT, in its yesterday edition, while announcing this news adds: This demonstration coincides with the anniversary of the ceremonies in which the novel "The Satanic Verses" was set on fire in Bradford.

In the meantime Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab Salibi, the chairman of the International Association of Muslims, which has branches in 22 European countries and whose central office is in Coventry in Britian, in an exclusive interview which was given to the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY, IRNA, in London yesterday said: All the members of this association will support any kind of move in preventing the publication of "The Satanic Verses," including standard demonstrations which are due to be held at the initiative of Bradford Mosques Council.

Embassy in Budapest Denies IRGC Sent to Romania

LD0301192590 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1730 GMT 3 Jan 90

[Text] Iran's embassy in Budapest has issued a statement criticizing the fact that the Hungarian media has carried reports of Iranian guardsmen being sent to support Ceausescu. The statement points out that during Ceausescu's visit to Tehran, the Iranian leaders protested against the Securitate's violent actions, and that the leader of the Republic, Khamene'i, even refused to meet the Romanian leader. At the same time, one of the representatives of the Foreign Affairs Committee called on the conductor [Ceausescu] to resign.

Iran has recognized the Council of National Salvation Front and Romania has also said that no kind of rumors can impede the development of bilateral relations.

According to the Embassy's evaluation, forces that oppose the development of good relations between Hungary and Iran are publicizing the news that they object to.

Majles Questions 'Logic' of Ceausescu's Visit

NC0501112490 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 31 Dec 89 p 2

[Editorial: "Velayati To Face Majles"]

[Text] The number of Majles deputies who have questioned Foreign Minister Velayati on the logic behind the deposed Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu's Dec. 18 visit to Tehran has reached 78 from earlier 45.

The thorny question hurled at the Foreign Ministry on the issue did put the ministry in hot waters last week.

Harsh-toned verbal attacks came the ministry's way from many corners, especially from the Majles and the press.

Given the very sensitive juncture in which Iran is situated at present, it seemed, from a logical perspective, that the relentless lambasting of the Foreign Ministry would have not served the best interests of the nation.

That was why leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i came to the rescue of the person of the foreign minister who had become a target of rather overblown criticism.

The words of support by the leader in favor of Velayati on Dec. 27, assured everyone across the nation that the foreign minister still enjoyed the confidence of the country's supreme leader.

The leader's statement in this connection gave rise to a wave of support for his position from different quarters, especially the religious leaders throughout the country.

Meanwhile another piece of news also made the rounds of political circles in recent days. Apparently Majles Speaker Mehdi Karrubi has asked the leader if the legislative body could go ahead with its questioning of the foreign minister on the wisdom of the Ceausescu's visit.

Informed sources relay that Ayatollah Khamene'i has advocated the view that Majles deputies "should freely act upon their legal duties."

As such it can easily be drawn that what the leader had taken issue with was going public with "irresponsible statements" that can supply enemies with cheap excuses to attack the country and its top officials.

Political observers however think Foreign Minister Velayati will face the Majles in one of the current week's days to respond to questions by the deputies on whys and hows of the Ceausescu's trip. These observers also believe that contrary to what some people expect, that particular Majles session will be a calm one.

The deputies are certainly well aware that at a time when the Foreign Ministry is fighting a high-pitched battle at the international scene at this very obnoxious no-war-no-peace situation nothing should ever undermine its position. The sensitivity of the time and circumstances calls for an absolutely logical approach to the issue. The Foreign Ministry should by no means be exploited as a platform to settle sectarian scores. Such internal confrontions will only harm the national interests and ideological objectives of the nation.

1 Soviet Drowns Trying To Cross Aras River

LD0401171790 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 4 Jan 90

[Text] According to a report by our correspondent from Tabriz, five young men from Soviet Azerbaijan yesterday threw themselves in the Aras River, intending to swim to Iranian soil. Four of them crossed the water and reached this side of the border, and one of them drowned.

According to a report by the Soviet news agency TASS, these unrests have spread to other parts of Soviet Azerbaijan, including Nakhijevan. A Soviet military source today said that following a few days of unrest in Nakhijevan region in the south of the Soviet Union, the situation is getting back to normal.

Students in Europe Renew Allegiance to Khamene'i

LD0401215590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 4 Jan 90

[Text] The Union of the Islamic Societies of Iranian Students in Europe has issued an announcement, renewing their alliance and allegiance with His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, and stressing their readiness to implement his orders.

The Central News Unit reports the members of the Union of the Islamic Societies of Iranian Students in Europe, while supporting the recent remarks made by His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the Muslims' guardian, swore to be ready, with their lives in their hands and to the last drop of their blood, to defend the Islamic revolution.

Roundtable Discusses Collapse of Communism

LD0401174390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Jan 90

[Text] Ideological issues, developments in the Eastern bloc, and the special features of the historic and very important message of his Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may he be admitted to God's paradise, to Mr Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, were discussed in this week's political roundtable program on the second channel of the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In this roundtable, Mr Larijani discussed whether the new thinking which has been brought about by Gorbachev falls within the framework of Marxism-Leninism, or whether it is contrary to the whole structure of Marxism-Leninism. He said: Basically, we are witnessing the death of Marxism, and it goes further than saying someone eliminated it. The best interpretation was the interpretation of his eminence the imam, who graciously said Marxism had reached a dead end. He added: The death of Marxism is not the death of simple thinking, because this ideology claimed it was presenting a comprehensive system for running human affairs in individual and social dimensions, and it had programs regarding social, political, economic, and even moral issues. The collapse of such a cohesive ideology, which had been practised in the world for nearly 70 years, had developed in the Soviet Union, and which dominates half of the world, is not a minor and small issue. He added: Perestroika does not fall within the context of Marxism, and regarding the foundations of Marxism, Gorbachev never regards himself bound by Marxism. Remarking that Marxism is a materialistic ideology, Larijani described its collapse as very important for those nations which have divine ideologies.

In the continuation of this discussion Mr Nowbari, our country's ambassador in the USSR, referred to the fact Soviet leaders do not believe the death of Marxism has arrived, but say that at Marx's time a model of socialism had been implemented for establishing social justice. However, now in the 20th and 21st centuries, another model will be implemented in its place. Mr Nowbari added: They say that for them, the spirit of Marxism is important, not its forms. They also believe Marxism is not a dogmatic ideology.

In this connection, Mr Larijani said the basis of Marxist ideology is not the thinking that one model may be found for one century; the Russian model of Marxism is in fact closer to the model presented by Marx than the model of socialism in European countries and the Russian version of Marxism is on the point of collapse and destruction. He said: We have, in fact, to accept that this is tantamount to the death of Marxism.

Mr Nowbari stressed that at the moment Gorbachev's perestroika faces many difficulties, such as the left-wing in the world, nationalities within the Soviet Union, and the improving economic situation. [sentence as heard] We said: If Gorbachev succeeds in solving the economic problems, he also will overcome the difficulties of world left-wing and domestic nationalities. However, at the moment, the economic difficulties in the Soviet Union have not been improved compared to 5 years ago, while perestroika started with the slogan of improving people's lives.

In the continuation of this roundtable, Dr Mohammadi, referring to the anniversary of the message from his eminence the imam, sanctified be his noble soul, to Gorbachev, said: That move was very amazing to a lot of people, because up to that time the imam did not have relations with other governments in that form. In his message, his eminence the imam referred to a number of issues, including praising Gorbachev's courage, warning about the dangers of falling into the lap of capitalism, and facing a dead end by Marxism—the first signs of which we have witnessed during the past year—so much so some countries even have eliminated the very word socialism from their title; also commenting about the very philosophy of communism, and finally guiding them when the imam said: Your problem is having given up religion and God.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani To Oversee Reconstruction

LD0401142490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Jan 90

[Text] In a letter to Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president of the Republic, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, has entrusted him with all the affairs and activities of the auxiliary headquarters for Khorramshahr reconstruction.

The text of the letter of the leader of the Islamic revolution to the president of the Republic is as follows:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. His Excellency Hojjat-ol Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the honorable president of the Republic: Greetings. With due regard to the determination of the Government of the Islamic Republic for expediting the work of reconstruction, including the reconstruction of Khorramshahr, I deem it appropriate that the auxiliary headquarters of Khorramshahr, which is working under the direction of the Tehran Friday prayer leader, should also be under the direction of your good self and the government. In any way you deem it necessary, utilize resources for Khorramshahr. Therefore, as of today, I entrust you with all the affairs and activities of the said headquarters. With greetings.
[Signed] Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i

Resumption of Cairo-Damascus Ties Assessed

LD2812135689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1103 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] Egypt and Syria have resumed their diplomatic relations. Twelve years after relations between the two countries broke off after Al-Sadat's trip to occupied Palestine, Damascus and Cairo are opening their diplomatic doors to each other.

Presently, most of the Arab governments that had broken off relations with Egypt, following the latter's signing of the Camp David accord, have resumed normal relations with Cairo, and up to a while ago, only Syria, Lebanon, and Libya held out. Arab governments renewed relations with Egypt after the conference of the Arab heads of states permitted this move 2 years ago. And what is important is that the old slogan: relations with Egypt means formal recognition of Camp David, has lost its credibility; and Arab governments, in justifying their action, emphasize the point that Egypt has distanced itself from Camp David and that that message became invalid in practice after the colonialist-Zionist settlements continued to be built in the occupied territories and when it became clear that the Palestinian problem remained unresolved.

Whether this justification is right or not there is no doubt that Arab governments, having a greater need for each other, especially in the wake of the latest developments in the Middle East and Palestine, have been driven in this direction.

The PLO leadership not only renewed its relations with Egypt several years ago and strengthened these but, in a final move, it also officially recognised the Zionist regime; thus former sensitivities relating to the close relations between Egypt and the Israeli regime have disappeared as far as governments are concerned and the Egyptian regime has rediscovered its former position among Islamic countries and in the Arab League.

On the other hand, the political map of the Arab world has taken on new divisions and groupings, and even now, apart from the Arab League which comprises 22 Arab countries, 3 regional leagues have also been created. [passage omitted]

These same regional alliances, which have direct effects on the national security of Syria, in the opinion of analysts, has made Damascus determined not to place itself opposite a fait accompli and to defeat the endeavors of others to isolate Syria and thus renew relations with Egypt, which is known as the heart of the Arab world.

Right now, alongside dozens of other issues and problems, Lebanon and Palestine are two very sensitive problems for Damascus officials. With regard to Palestine, apart from the uprising of its Muslim people, Egypt is playing an important role in the Palestine political arena and its compromising [as heard] projects. In Lebanon, the Iraqi regime supports any anti-Syrian element, even though these elements may also have very close relations with the Israeli regime. Syria hopes that by resuming relations with Egypt it may be able to reduce the pressures it is under. On the other hand, the timing of the renewal of relations has another important characteristic and that is the Egyptian people's increased contempt for the Iraqi regime. Following the deportation of hundreds of thousands of Egyptian workers from Iraq, and delivery of their coffins instead of their wages, to Cairo, it appears that Syria has taken advantage of the opportunity to fill this vacuum and thereby speed up the greater isolation of the Iraqi regime. Syria always has carried more attraction for the people of Egypt and the leaders of different opposition parties, as well as the Association of Lawyers of Egypt, have until now had extensive relations with Syrian officials.

But, apart from all of these reasons, there is an important point which cannot be overlooked in the agenda of the Egyptian regime—that is, its relations with the Zionist regime. Moreover, it appears that the restoration of diplomatic relations with the Egyptian Government is aimed at strengthening compromises in the region.

ICO Members Arrive for Human Rights Session

NC2612091089 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 25 Dec 89

[Text] Members of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] delegation led by Mr 'Uthman, the deputy director general, and Dr Ash'al, the ICO legal adviser, arrived in Tehran yesterday. They will participate in inaugurating the 3-day session of the ICO's committee on human rights in Islam.

In this session, the final document on human rights in Islam will be formulated and ratified. The session of the ICO's Committee on Human Rights in Islam will be attended by experts from 30 Islamic countries and will open today with an address by Ayatollah Yazdi, the head of the judiciary.

Paper Views International Trends, 5-Year Plan

NC2612161989 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 17 Dec 89 p 16

[Political commentary by 'A. Marvi: "A Plan for National Development, Peace With Iraq"]

[Excerpts] The Majles is currently debating the 5-year plan for the country's socioeconomic development. The plan was finally compiled after a prolonged period of waiting and anticipation stemming from a lack of consensus among the political forces and the presence of war conditions. The current debate reveals the determination of the present "political acumen" to explore the various ways of achieving the objectives of national development.

The new circumstances in the country, the important changes in the Constitution, the election of the new government, the cease-fire with Iraq, the stabilizing of the prices of crude oil exports and the allocation of a definite quota for Iran in OPEC, the emergence of at least a "detente" [preceding word in French] in Iran's relations with most of its neighbors, and, most important of all, the need to expedite the trend toward economic and political reforms—all these conditions served to motivate and activate the government and the Majles to begin debating the 5-year plan for the country's socioeconomic development. [passage omitted]

To gain a comprehensive overview, one must also determine what international considerations will affect Iran's economic development plan.

To do this without resorting to any flights of fancy or taking a conservative attitude, we must take note of the international climate, the general form of the international system, and the nature and balance of power in this system. Although a plan for national development gives priority to the country's domestic needs, such a plan is presented in the particular international climate existing at that time and its success or failure depends to a great degree on the dominant international trends. One must ask, therefore, what international trends will be dominant in the next decade.

The 1990's will be a decade of constructive change and upheaval in international affairs and usher mankind into a new era of political, economic, military, and cultural life. The present era is giving way to another, the watchword of which will be "constructive change."

The roots of these developments can be sought in the recent fundamental and irrevocable changes in Eastern Europe, Western Europe's efforts to adjust itself to these changes, and the attention of Third World countries to these changes. There are more changes to come and not all of them emanate from Gorbachev's perestroyka. [passage omitted]

The country's 5-year plan for social and economic development should at least provide for economic growth and national welfare, bring our economic development up to the level of our neighbors, strengthen the basis of our defense, preserve the gains of the 5-year plan, and prevent Iraqi expansionism and avarice. In doing this, Iran will also reveal its stance toward the larger political issues.

Even though these larger political issues do not affect Iran directly, they will influence the implementation of the country's economic development plan. Therefore, it is necessary to mention these issues, which can be listed as follows:

The policies of large-scale economies and changing financial relations at the international level.
The policy of industrialization.
The future of international companies.
The principles of international trade agreements.
Multinational conglomerates and investments.
The future of prices for raw materials.
East-West trade.
Scientific and technological progress.
Food.
Population growth.
North-South relations.
East-West relations.
Relations among Western bloc countries.
Regional military conflicts.
The future of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.
Regional military powers.
Factors of common concern around the world (the environment, the oceans, the polar regions, etc).
Terrorism by governments and groups.
Human rights.
Cultural and religious leanings, forces, and directions, especially among the people of the Third World.
Ecological issues.
Collective management of international policy.

In addition we must bear in mind a factor of extreme importance to the 5-year plan, which is the dangers arising from the instability in the region due to Iraq's

reluctance to sign an accord that would establish a just and durable peace with Iran. This factor demands great attention. [passage omitted]

This situation should prompt our planners to bear in mind the instability in the region and the international hostility toward Iran and they should base their planning on the "worse-case scenario," so that we will have the strong defenses necessary to combat any pressure from the enemy on the basis of a preemptive program. Therefore, it is imperative that even in the interim program the country's defensive strength must be given top priority and great attention.

Commentary on EEC Commission's Report on Turkey

NC2712201589 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1700 GMT 20 Dec 89

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Dear listeners, last Monday the EEC announced its final decision on Turkey's application to become a full member of that organization. Turkey applied to the EEC to become a member 2 and ½ years ago. In responding to the EEC decision, some politicians in Turkey said: Integration has been postponed to another spring. It seems that they have not lost their hope of integrating with the EEC.

The situation now is that Turkey cannot reapply for membership for another 3 years. This means that it can reapply after 1993.

What should be considered at this point is the following: The first agreement which provided for Turkey's membership in the EEC was signed in Ankara in 1963. It was believed at the time that Turkey would need 15 or 20 years to become a full member, as called for by the agreement. However, 26 years have passed since the agreement was signed in Ankara. Meanwhile, Turkey will not be able to reapply for membership for another 3 or 4 years. Even if it applies after 1993, the way the EEC will respond and the time it will take to do so is unknown. In view of all this, it can be predicted that the 1963 agreement signed in Ankara on Turkey's membership will probably not yield any result until 40 years after the agreement was signed. In fact, almost 30 years have already passed since that agreement was signed.

Obviously, our commentary is based on something very different from the grief the supporters of the Western world have felt as a result of this delay. In view of this, it will be useful to consider a number of basic points:
1. The overwhelming majority of people in Turkey are Muslims.
2. The Turkish regime is a non-Islamic administration and it pursues a secular policy, which means that it tries to dissociate Islam from social life.
3. In view of the fact that any attempt by the Muslim people in Turkey to demonstrate their Islamic feelings against the matter is banned by the existing constitutional order—indeed, any such attempt is regarded as a criminal offense—the people are forced to consider only the economic aspect of EEC membership. It is only from this point of view that they can agree or disagree with the matter.

4. The EEC countries, particularly the FRG, France, and Great Britain, have asserted that the EEC is a Christian alliance. Chancellor Helmut Kohl clearly pointed to this fact in a statement he made at a book exhibition in Frankfurt about a month ago. He said: Any country wishing to become an EEC member should understand that the EEC is a Christian organization.

5. Regardless of more than 60 years of relentless secular administration in Turkey, the Muslim people of that country have not been turned away from Islam to an extent which would satisfy the Western world, and the Islamic trend continues to be the most effective concept of life representing the general inclination of the people in Turkey. The Western world feels deeply concerned by the sympathetic way the Muslim people of Turkey follow the Islamic revolution in Iran, and the Western countries do not wish to have Turkey—a country which, despite all the effort that has hitherto been made to convert it, remains different from the Western countries—included in their Christian organization.

They wanted the Muslim people of Turkey to change their faith and their culture, their concept of Islam, and their way of life, which are linked with their faith. However, this has not happened.

The EEC countries would like to integrate further with Turkey. Nevertheless, since they cannot agree to integration before Turkey is weakened and forced to assume a character similar to that of the Western countries, they have sought to impose new conditions on Turkey. [passage omitted]

All this indicates that regardless of the attention certain circles in Turkey focus on the protection of Western interests, Turkey is not being accepted into the EEC, which is a Christian organization, because there has been no indication that the Turkish people are willing to relinquish Islam. Furthermore, unless Turkey agrees to a number of religious, social, and cultural changes, its acceptance as a member of the EEC will continue to remain an illusion. [passage omitted]

Obviously, compared with the Western countries, Turkey has more in common with the other Islamic countries in the social and cultural fields. This also applies to the religious and economic dynamics of the peoples of Turkey and the other Islamic countries. Therefore, if Turkey adopts a more sincere attitude toward the Islamic world, these factors will serve the interests of Turkey and the other Muslim peoples in the region.

Return of Bulgarian Muslims to Bulgaria Viewed

NC0501091790 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1700 GMT 2 Jan 90

[Unattributed commentary: "Turkey and the Bulgarian Muslims"]

[Excerpts] Bulgarian immigrants of Turkish origin continue to return from Turkey to Bulgaria. The number of refugees who have returned has reached 100,000. The immigration of 300,000 Bulgarian Muslims to Turkey as a result of the assimilation policy in Bulgaria, an exodus which began seven months ago, became one of Turkey's main problems. [passage omitted]

The Turkish Government protested the violation of the rights of Muslims in Bulgaria. Furthermore, it blamed Bulgaria for the sharp increase in the number of immigrants after the arrival of the first groups of refugees. The government also declared that Turkey was prepared to receive all Bulgarian Muslims. Although then Prime Minister Turgut Ozal disclosed that Turkey was prepared to accommodate 1 million Bulgarian Turks, Turkey closed its border to the Turkish refugees from Bulgaria when the number of immigrants reached 300,000.

The economic problems, the financial pressures, and the Turkish Government's failure to find suitable places for the resettlement of the refugees have forced more than 100,000 immigrants back to Bulgaria. Meanwhile, another reason for their return is their concern for their relatives who were left behind.

The question of Bulgarian Turks increased the tension in political relations between Turkey, which is a NATO member, and Bulgaria, which is a member of the Warsaw Pact. The dispute between the two countries became more apparent when the Turkish Government took action against the Bulgarian Government's pressure on the Bulgarian Muslims in 1984. Meanwhile, the demonstrations held by the Muslims and the effort made by the mufti of the Bulgarian Muslims achieved positive results. The Bulgarian Muslim minority has been given a number of freedoms in selecting names, using their own language, and fulfilling religious requirements.

The recognition of religious freedom in Bulgaria has encouraged the return of the Bulgarian refugees to their homeland. Considering the problems the Bulgarian immigrants face in Turkey, more Bulgarian refugees are expected to return. Meanwhile, the Turkish Government's disclosure, which welcomed Bulgaria's decision on the Bulgarian Turks, indicates that Turkey, because of inflation, unemployment, the high cost of living, and other similar economic problems in the country, will be pleased by the return of the Bulgarian Turks to their homeland.

Armenian Patriarch Pays Homage to Khomeyni

LD0401202290 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 4 Jan 90

[Text] Garegin II, the Patriarch of the Gregorian Armenians who arrived in Tehran yesterday, attended the graveside of the late Imam Khomeyni—may his soul rest in peace—this morning and paid homage to the great leader of the Islamic revolution by laying wreaths of flowers on his graveside. He expressed thanks for the attention of the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the leader of the Islamic Republic Ayatollah Khamene'i toward Armenians. He also called on Iranian Armenians to participate in the reconstruction of the ruins brought about as the result of the Iraqi-imposed war against Iran with all their possibilities.

Mujahidin 'Important Element' in Afghan Talks

LD2512192189 Tehran IRNA in English 1848 GMT 25 Dec 89

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 25, IRNA—The Islamic Republic of Iran considers participation of the Afghan mujahideen in talks to solve the Afghan issue 'as an important element' and would boycott any gathering on Afghanistan without participation of the representatives of the mujahideen, announced an informed source at the Foreign Ministry today.

The official, adverting to Pakistan's opposition to an Iranian proposal to form a quadrilateral conference comprising the Soviet Union, Pakistan, Iran and the Afghan mujahideen's representatives to solve the Afghan crisis, added that the Islamic Republic of Iran did not take part in the Geneva talks on the Afghanistan simply because of Afghan mujahideen's non-attendance in those sessions. 'This stand of Iran has been obvious for everybody since the beginning.'

Pakistan's deputy foreign minister had recently said that his country believed such a conference could not be successful because the Afghan mujahideen had no active participation in it.

Newspaper Stresses Need for Cultural Guidelines

NC2612150689 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 17 Dec 89 pp 1, 12

[Editorial: "The Leadership's Guidelines and the Supreme Cultural Council"]

[Excerpts] On the 5th anniversary of the establishment of the Supreme Cultural Council, the council's members met His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i. During the meeting, the leader of the Islamic revolution expressed his appreciation for the council's work and gave some important guidance on the problems of education and culture in general. [passage omitted]

We hope that the esteemed deputies of the Islamic Majles who are reviewing the bill on the 5-year plan for

the country's social, economic, and cultural development will pay adequate attention to the leader's exhortations, especially as regards the "problems of universities." [passage omitted]

It is clear that the council has not had enough time to focus on culture in general because of the various issues that arise daily in the executive and educational departments, issues which are themselves important and deserving of attention. For example, no detailed policy has been established toward the arts, namely theater, film, music, and so on. This is one of the most important needs of our society and revolution.

The influence of and the role played by art in the transfer of values, right or wrong, to future generations needs clarification. Although we can use the miscellaneous guidelines laid down by the imam and His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i to compile some sort of framework which would be acceptable to and meet the needs of our society, unfortunately the lack of any formal rules and regulations means that the dedicated artists of our country are at a loss on the subject and sickminded people endeavor to present their unworthy sentiments in the name of art by cloaking them in ambiguities.

This has caused the greatest harm to the vast apparatus of the Voice and Vision. When the guidelines are not specific, all kinds of music, from the West or elsewhere, is considered permissible and all kinds of criticism, however sympathetic, remains ultimately ineffective and culminates in pessimism or indifference among listeners, while programs presented on holidays become merely an aimless diversion without any educational objective. [passage omitted]

The experience of the past 10 years has shown that whenever our youth have been given a vast arena in which they could operate, they have shouldered the heavy burden of the revolution and their movement and endeavors have metamorphosed into a school for the spiritual and cultural education of youth. [passage omitted]

In any case, the Supreme Cultural Council's past performance gives cause for hope. It is faced with numerous and fateful issues, whether in the form of a perspective for culture in general or in the field of cultural education and training. We are optimistic that, bearing in mind its sensitive role and responsibility and with the help of all organizations and prominent cultural and political personalities in the country, the council will meet with ever-increasing success in the consolidation of divine values.

Pakistan

Yaqub Khan Comments on Kashmir, Siachen, Wular

BK0401161790 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 4 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan has said the main objective of Pakistan's policy on Afghanistan is to promote peace and stability through a comprehensive settlement in order to enable the Afghan refugees to return home with dignity and safety. This objective can be realized only when a government acceptable to the Afghan people is set up in Afghanistan. He said this while answering a point raised by members in the Senate during discussion on the president's address to the joint session of Parliament.

He expressed his views on the possible effects of recent events in India on Pakistan-India relations. On Kashmir, he said Pakistan is firm on its stand that the solution to the Kashmir dispute lies in holding a just and free plebiscite in Kashmir based on the UN Resolutions, which are binding to both Pakistan and India.

On Siachen, the foreign minister said that despite five rounds of foreign secretary-level talks and agreements, Pakistan is disappointed over the fact that there has been no progress on implementation of the agreements reached at the last meeting. However, the meeting of defense secretaries is going to be held soon, and it will review the progress achieved after their previous meeting in June last year.

On the Wular barrage, he said the bilateral talks held in this connection have so far not produced the desired results. At every meeting Pakistan has repeatedly said that it will not permit any deviation from the relevant articles of the Indus Basin Treaty. If the current talks do not succeed, Pakistan has the right to settle this issue through arbitration.

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said Pakistan is concerned with India's extensive military program. Of course, he said, despite bilateral differences the government desires to normalize its relations with India without compromising on principles. [Passage omitted]

Commentary Hails Success of Military Exercises

BK2712143489 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 26 Dec 89

[Commentary by Mohammad Yasin: "Conclusion of Military Exercises"]

[Text] Pakistan's biggest-ever Army exercise, "Zarb-i-Momin," and PAF [Pakistan Air Force] exercise, "Hallmark," have concluded successfully, achieving the goals set by the defense planners. Over 150,000 soldiers, JCO's [junior commissioned officers], and NCO's [non-commissioned officers], and officers participated in the exercise. The exercise involved mobilization of 1,000 tracked vehicles and 16,000-17,000 [word indistinct] vehicles. Jet aircraft of PAF made 2,000 sorties during the exercise. All along, the exercise was instrumental in testing the modernized structure of the Army as well as newly inducted weapons.

The concept of offensive defense was put to test and evaluated during the exercise; but more importantly, it provided an opportunity to the defense planners to test integration of the air forces with the ground forces. PAF coordinated perfectly with the Army. The pilots had the

rare opportunity of testing their war-time ordnance in the third range. The ground crews demonstrated their top-class reliability and serviceability of the aircraft.

The efficient way the two exercises were conducted reinforced the trust that the nation reposed in the Armed Forces and their capability to defend the geographical integrity of the country. During the exercise, efficiency and preparedness of the Armed Forces stood the test thoroughly.

The chief of the Army staff, General Mirza Aslam Beg, has amply remarked in the course of his chat with newsmen that the exercises like "Zarb-i-Momin" should be carried out every 4 years to test professional skill and weapons available to the Armed Forces. Though the holding of such exercises involves heavy expenditure, it is nonetheless important that they should be held regularly after every 4 years to enhance the level of professionalism of soldiers and refine the doctrines of defense.

The security of the country requires all-time vigilance. As such, conducting of the exercises is the best way of strengthening of professional and conceptual capabilities and improving national security.

The just-concluded exercise has amply demonstrated that the country's defense is strong and in professional hands under democratic polity. There was truth in Gen Mirza Aslam Beg's assertion that the "Zarb-i-Momin" exercise would serve as a deterrent to the enemy.

Another positive aspect of the exercise was the involvement of the media in it. The objective was to keep the masses informed of the capability of the Armed Forces in protecting the country against foreign aggression. This has stemmed from the policy of openness adopted by the chief of the Army staff, Gen Beg. For 41 years, the military affairs were a taboo for the press. Now the winds of change are sweeping the Armed Forces. There was a strong realization in the Armed Forces that the media has an important role to play in the defense of the country.

At a seminar organized by the Interservice Public Relations, the role of the media in defense was discussed with full freedom and openness. Since then, the newsmen have been encouraged to familiarize themselves with military establishments and discuss defense issues with the Armed Forces. During the exercise, the newsmen and editors of the national dailies had full access to the Army commanders at all levels and were provided all facilities to watch the exercise critically and report back whatever they saw. The rapport between media men and the Armed Forces has definitely increased as a result of the policy of openness, and it would contribute to the strengthening of the national defense.

Committee To Probe Train Accident; 285 Killed

BK0501033690 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 5 Jan 90

[Text] Relief operations continue without a break at Sangi railway station, and the ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN, quoting Sukkur administration and hospital sources, says the death toll in the mishap has risen to 285 and the toll of injured to 400. Railway sources say the first three coaches of the second class coaches were completely smashed, while the remaining five out of eight coaches were badly damaged. The impact was so great that five wagons of the goods train were smashed.

The federal minister for railways, Mr Zafar Ali Leghari, said a high-level inquiry committee has been constituted to probe into the cause of the accident. He gave the assurance that the inquiry report would be made public upon completion. He said it is not a major issue for him to resign, but more important is the probe into the accident and punishment of those responsible. Zafar Ali Leghari said subversion could not be ruled out.

Meanwhile, Rohri police are believed to have registered a first information report against the assistant stationmaster, the signalman, and cabin man of Sangi railway station. One report says the station staff has fled and instructions have been issued for their arrest.

Sind Chief Minister Syed Qaim Ali Shah visited the accident site at Sangi Railway station. He announced a grant of 2.5 million rupees for immediate relief operations.

Air Chief Leaves on Official Visit to Bangladesh

BK0301133090 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 3 Jan 90

[Text] The chief of the air staff, Air Chief Marshal Hakimullah, left Islamabad for Karachi on his way to Dhaka on a 5-day official visit to Bangladesh. During his stay there, he is likely to hold talks with his Bangladeshi counterpart, besides having meetings with senior officials.

Sri Lanka

Parliament To Take Up No-Confidence Motion 9 Jan

BK0501075890 Hong Kong AFP in English 0746 GMT 5 Jan 90

[Text] Colombo, Jan 5 (AFP)—The Sri Lankan Parliament will take up a no-confidence motion against the government of President Ranasinghe Premadasa during its session starting Tuesday [9 January], a senior official said.

Parliament Secretary-General Nihal Seneviratne said Thursday that four opposition parties had given notice of a no-faith motion against the government, accusing it of failing to restore peace and order in the troubled island state.

The motion also accused the government of violating the fundamental rights of the people and the rule of law and "deliberately" permitting or encouraging illegal paramilitary organisations to "kidnap, abduct, torture and murder citizens of Sri Lanka and commit other offences."

The motion's sponsors charged the government with failure to check inflation and with increasing poverty by removing

subsidies on essential foodstuffs and through a retrenchment of employees of state-owned organisations.

In addition, the motion said the government had failed to stem corruption and end discrimination against political opponents and that it practiced favouritism.

The co-sponsors of the motion were the main opposition parties, the Sri Lankan Freedom Party, Mahajana Eksath Peramuna, the left-wing United Socialist Alliance and the Tamil United Liberation Front.

The four parties together have fewer than 100 seats in the 225-member Parliament.

Tamil 'Infighting' Results in 61 Killed 2 Jan

BK0201155390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 Jan 90

[Text] An agency report from Colombo says that in the infighting between two rival Tamil forces in Sri Lanka, 61 persons were killed today.

According to military sources in Vavuniya, fierce fighting took place at Cheddi Kulam between the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] and the EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front]. Fifty-one of the dead are of the EPRLF. The LTTE captured over 100 men of the rival group and their weapons.

Security Forces Arrest 20 'Tamil Militants'

BK0301122290 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 3 Jan 90

[Text] Twenty Tamil militants were arrested by the security forces in a search operation in the eastern district of Amparai. Security sources told LANKAPUVATH that 14 DK-43 weapons, 63 magazines, 5,030 rounds of ammunition, one LMG [light mahcinegun], 18 LMG magazines, 275 rounds of ammunition, one SLR [self-loading rifle] weapon, 47 SLR magazines, O2-F-84 [expansion not given] weapons, 6 magazines, 8 No. 36 grenades, 1 2-inch mortar, and 12 grenades were seized from the militants.

Meanwhile, security sources said that the security forces have freed 239 TNA [Tamil National Army] cadres and handed the boys to their parents and guardians at Trincomalee today. The LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam], too, were reported to have relased 150 captured TNA cadres yesterday.

Many of these boys in their early teens were forcibly conscripted into the TNA.

Security Forces, LTTE Free Tamil Militia Men

BK0101114690 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 1 Jan 90

[Text] Over 370 young soldiers of an illegal Tamil militia were freed to be handed over to their parents in Sri Lanka on Sunday after surrendering to security forces and a rival group, military sources said. The sources said 220 Tamil National Army [TNA] recruits were released to a local government official in Trincomalee, who is expected to send them back to their parents. The soldiers, some only 14 years old, fled from neighboring Batticaloa District after clashes with the rival Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam and surrendered to the Sri Lankan security forces at Polonnaruwa last week.

In Batticaloa, the Tigers released another 150 TNA men to their parents.